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THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—This Evening, at 8, KATHARINE AND PETRUCHIO.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—This Evening, at 7.45, OLIVIA.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—This Evening, at 7.30, THE LIGHTS O' LONDON.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—This Evening, at 7.45, THE LAST CHANCE.

GAIETY THEATRE, STRAND.—This Evening, at 8.15, LAKME (FRENCH PLAYS).

STRAND THEATRE.—This Evening at 8, THE SUNNY SIDE and A WIDOW HUNT.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE, Strand.—This Evening, at 8.15, OPEN HOUSE.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8, THE MONEY-SPINNER.

GLOBE THEATRE.—This Evening, at 9, THE PRIVATE SECRETARY. At 8, A BAD PENNY

COURT THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8.45, THE MAGISTRATE.

COMEDY THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8, BOCCACCIO.

SAVOY THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8.15, THE MIKADO: or, THE TOWN OF TITIPU.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—M. de Freycinet, the Foreign Minister, made on Tuesday afternoon, both in the Senate and Chamber, the long-expected announcement of peace with China. The treaty had, said M. de Freycinet, been signed that very day at four o'clock in the afternoon by the French Minister Plenipotentiary at Tientsin. The conditions of this peace, which were conformable to those named in the preliminaries of the 4th of April, consisted chiefly in the execution by China of the Treaty of Tientsin, while France on her side declared that her only object was the fulfilment of that treaty. The document would be submitted in due course to Parliament, when it would be seen that the convention with China had been rendered still more favourable to French interests, thanks to the skilful efforts of French diplomatists.

M. Brisson, the Premier, M. de Freycinet, and Admiral Galiber, Minister of Marine, on Wednesday attended the sitting of the Committee on the Credits for Madagascar, and made statements explaining the Ministerial policy with regard to that island. The Committee having heard the Ministerial statements, agreed by an almost unanimous vote to the credit of 12,000,000f. asked for by the Government to meet the costs of the French expeditionary force in Madagascar.

At Thursday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies M. de Soubeyran requested explanations from the Government concerning the deduction from the Egyptian coupons. M. de Freycinet replied that France and the other Powers considered the decision illegal. England, on the contrary, affirmed its legality. The harm done was, however, *nil*, since the London Convention specified a deduction of 5 per cent. for two years. The Powers had demanded neither the withdrawal of the decree nor the restitution of the deduction.

A terrible and fatal accident has taken place at Thiers, in the Puy de Dome, where, while a large number of perons were standing on the stone stairs of the court house, the whole place being thronged with people waiting to hear the result of a trial, the staircase gave way and twenty-four persons were killed, while 164 were injured, fourteen seriously.

At Paris the Committee of the supporters of Prince Victor Napoleon has issued a manifesto in view of the general elections, declaring against all community with the Revolutionists. It appeals to all adversaries of the Republic, and promises that they shall be fairly represented on the electoral lists. The essence of the programme of the party is war against Republican anarchy.

GERMANY.—The *Times* correspondent at Berlin gives a summary of a letter dated April 13, from an officer of the *Bismarck* at the Cameroons, which shows that the course of German policy is not altogether smooth there. Admiral Knorr wished to make an alliance with the natives of Upper Cameroon, but was seized by the Abo negroes, and was not released till his men had recourse to severe reprisals.

"The Admiral then resolved to stop all traffic with the Abo negroes, who occupy the banks of the Yabiang, and to this end he sent a small steamer belonging to the firm of Wörmann, with about twenty men, to anchor at a point where the Yabiang flows into the Cameroon. The command of this steamer was intrusted to the writer of the letter. The blockade lasted till March 21, and all but the officer himself and one sailor were seized with fever and had to be replaced. A small boat expedition was made up the Yabiang, and some canoes laden with oil were captured and sunk, and a few negroes were killed."

RUSSIA.—The Imperial family will pay a visit, in the course of the summer, to the Danish Court.

The *Daily News* correspondent at Sebastopol says the Government is refortifying the city without loss of time :—

"Enormous earthworks are in course of construction or repair for some distance along the shore, looking seawards, and on all points commanding the approaches to the harbour. They are being mounted with immensely powerful guns lately brought here. The batteries are numerous and powerful, and all the works are being pushed on as rapidly as possible under the direction of a large force of sappers and artillerymen, who, with the soldiers under them, never cease work, even on the strictest of Russian holidays. The completion of the ironclads *Tchesme* and *Sinope* is also being hastened on."

The *Novosti* publishes the following news from Abyssinia :—

"King John received a few days ago (May 5) from the Coptic Patriarch of Alexandria the happy news that he had been knighted by the Russian Government. He further informed the Negus that the Orthodox Church is disposed to aid the Abyssinian Church. The King read this letter aloud in the presence of his Ministers and his Court. Then he sent a copy to the Archbishop of Hoader, with instructions to communicate it to the Abyssinian clergy. Then the Negus announced that he was resolved to despatch a deputation to Athens and St. Petersburg to present his homage to Alexander III. and to the Holy Synod."

It is reported at Adowa that an extraordinary Russian Embassy is on its way to that country. The *Novosti* remarks :—

"Under the present circumstances this news acquires special importance. We know, in fact, that in the event of a war between Russia and England, Italy would join the latter country. It is for this that she has taken up a position on the Red Sea. She must now expect to find a foe in King John of Abyssinia."

It is given out by the *St. Petersburg Gazette* that a special Abyssinian Embassy will arrive at St. Petersburg in the course of the summer. Another paper, the *Grashdanin*, states that the objects of the mission are declared to be to develop the unity of faith between the Abyssinian and Orthodox Churches, and to obtain assistance to counteract Italian designs. The *Grashdanin* adds that a Russian Embassy will afterwards proceed to Abyssinia for the exploration of the country, and will be the bearer of presents for King John.

AUSTRIA.—A law prohibiting Sunday labour in workshops and factories came into operation on Thursday. For the future no work will be allowed to be done between the hours of six o'clock on Sunday morning and the same hour on Monday morning in ordinary factories and workshops. The Minister of Commerce is, however, empowered to grant exemptions from this regulation to those trades or businesses whose interruption would interfere with the convenience of the public in the matter of traffic or consumption, or in cases such as ironworks, mills, &c., in which serious loss and inconvenience would be entailed by a complete cessation of labour.

AMERICA.—The rapid progress of the blacks towards numerical supremacy in the United States is beginning to attract anxious attention. Some startling figures bearing on the subject were given by the Rev. Dr. Allen, secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society, in the Presbyterian General Assembly at Cincinnati, on the 25th of May. Twenty years ago, he observed, at the close of the war, there were in the Southern States 3,947,000 coloured people, and now there are more than 7,000,000. Then there were in Mississippi 220,000 negroes ; now 650,000. Then there were in South Carolina 400,000 ; now more than 600,000. Five hundred coloured babies are born in the United States every day. The coloured population of the United States doubles every twenty years ; the white population only once in thirty-five years. Eight years will not have passed before the negroes will be in a numerical majority in some of the Southern States. At the present rate of increase, in 1985 there will be 96,000,000 white people in the United States and 192,000,000 coloured people. The day, in Dr. Allen's opinion, is not far distant when it will be a physical impossibility to continue the present practical disfranchisement of the coloured man of the Southern States. In South Carolina he has bought and paid for 270,000a. of land which he cultivates. In the South he pays taxes on 91,000,000dols. worth of property. He is editing, printing, and publishing 106 newspapers, and yet of the 7,000,000 coloured people of the country more than 6,000,000 cannot read or write.

Advices received at Plymouth on Thursday supply details of a fearful slaughter of British subjects at Culibra. A gang of nondescript soldiers of the policemen called Caucans were sent from Panama to quell a reported riot at Emperador. When the Caucans arrived they found that the disturbance was over, and that there was no need of their services. Four of their number strayed into a canal labourers' camp in the vicinity. They wore no uniform, and having no right to intrude they were disarmed by the canal policemen. Flushed with drink and desirous of revenge, the Caucans sought their comrades, and, joined by several Carthagenians armed with machetes, about twenty of them made a descent upon the camp at night. They first asked for water, and whilst it was being brought them they shot the bearers and hacked them with their machetes. Those of the men who fled were ruthlessly shot down and mutilated, and those who, terror-stricken, refused or were unable to leave their beds, were shot and hacked where they lay. Many managed to escape, but all were plundered, the camp being ransacked, and every article of value being carried off. On the morning following this brutal massacre twenty-nine bodies perforated with bullets and disfigured with machete cuts were interred by the canal people, and nineteen wounded were sent to the Canal Hospital in Panama. Every man killed or wounded was a Jamaican. On the departure of the mail bringing these details it was reported that Sir Henry Norman had written to the Imperial Government for instructions.

GREECE.—The Bishop of Gibraltar held Confirmations on Whit-Sunday and Trinity Sunday at Corfu and Patras. The churches were well filled, and that at Patras dressed with flowers. The Confirmation was introduced into the usual Morning Office, and the Holy Communion was celebrated, at which all those confirmed were partakers. The Bishop delivered two addresses ; the candidates were presented separately by the Rev. E. Randall, the chaplain, and confirmed at the entrance to the chancel. Many Greeks were present, among them one of the Canons of the Greek Cathedral, the Rev. Pappa Constantine, who also remained during the celebration of Holy Communion. The Bishop returns to England by way of Fiume, Trieste, Venice, Milan, and Turin.

CYPRUS.—A Parliamentary paper has been published relating to the revenue and expenditure of Cyprus for the year 1884-5. The paper contains seven despatches, of which the first, dated October 27, 1884, is a request addressed by Lord Derby to Major-General Sir R. Biddulph for an estimate of the revenue and expenditure for the financial year, in order that the Treasury might be informed whether a grant in aid would be required, and, if so, of what amount. In December Sir R. Biddulph sent two tables, containing the various items of revenue and expenditure, the returns of the last four months of the financial year being estimated from those of the first eight. According to these tables, in which the different heads are set down with minuteness, the estimated revenue was £176,519, a decrease of £1,591 on the year before. To this must be added a surplus of previous grants, £4,247, and excess of locust revenue, £500, the total being £185,766. Against this was to be set an expenditure amounting to £115,276, which left a surplus of £70.490 to go the Turkish tribute. A small sum of £309 had already gone to Turkey. To make up the whole tribute account of £92,686, there was an estimated deficit of £21,887. As Sir R. Biddulph thought that the actual expenditure would fall below the estimate, he contented himself with asking for a grant in aid of £15,000 to meet this deficit. This grant the Treasury assented to in January. In May Sir R. Biddulph was enabled to send Lord Derby the actual instead of the estimated accounts for the year. There was a considerable falling off in the revenue, which amounted to £172,063, less than the estimate by £6,047. Tithes showed a reduction of £9,500, of which £7,000 was accounted for by the abolition of the grape tithe. Verghi and military exemption taxes, owing to faulty collection, showed a large falling off ; customs decreased by £3,300 ; the abolition of the Roosoomat taxes caused a loss of £1,126 ; port and health dues showed a reduction of £2,000. On the other hand, excise showed a trifling increase, as did court fees and fines, together with stamps. The total expenditure for the year up to March 31, 1885, was £112,037, a trifle more than the year before ; so that the gross excess of revenue over expenditure amounted to £60,026. The actual accounts, therefore, stood thus :—Surplus of previous grants, £4,249 ; revenue for 1884 5, £172,063 ; surplus of locust tax (now estimated at), £6,000 ; or total receipts, £182,310. The charges amounted to £112,037, which, with the Turkish tribute of £92,746, gives a total charge of £204,783. Hence, the grant in aid of £15,000 had to meet a deficit of £22,473. Lord Derby, while expressing his regret to the Treasury (May 25, 1885) that the grant in aid would not cover the deficit for the year, pointed out that, as the balance of tribute had not to be paid over until the end of July, he did not desire that a supplementary estimate should be taken ; by that time the surplus of receipts over expenditure would have provided the deficiency.

SPAIN.—The epidemic around Valencia continues to spread, and there seems no longer any doubt that it is cholera. It has been found necessary to give orders for the isolation of several districts. Many cases have occured in Valencia itself. About 45 per cent. of those attacked die. A petition signed by thirty-six medical men asks the authorities not to establish quarantines or sanitary cordons, as the cholera has been raging for nine weeks, and has not spread outside the province of Valencia. The number of persons attacked among the unprotected inhabitants was much larger than among the inoculated, only three of whom died out of forty attacked in twenty-five days. Already 9,970 persons have been inoculated. Dr. Ferran continues to inoculate many persons daily in Valencia, and the result is always the production of the same phenomena of simulated cholera. According to other accounts, the protective character of the inoculation is not without drawbacks, many cases of serious erysipelas and of blood-poisoning having already occurred. It is feared that the disease has already appeared in Madrid, though the two or three cases first reported seem to have been merely the choleraic diarrhœa usual in hot weather. A proclamation has been issued by the Mayor of Madrid, ordering precautionary sanitary measures to be adopted in all stables, yards, and poor lodging-houses, and urging the necessity of cleanliness in the streets and private houses. The Mayor also offers to have all suspicious articles of food and drink analysed gratuitously, and invites householders to report complaints regarding any unhealthy circumstances which they may notice.

A telegram from Madrid says that twenty-eight cases of a disease resembling cholera had occurred in Murcia during the previous twelve hours ; sixty cases are reported from various towns in the province, besides forty-five cases and eighteen deaths from the province of Castellon.

SOUTH AFRICA.—The Transvaal Volksraad has passed a resolution disqualifying all the persons who signed the petition for annexation to Great Britain and against retrocession from holding office, or being a member of the Volksraad. In the debate it was even suggested to extend the disqualification to the tenth generation. Mr. Joubert has accepted the chief command of the Transvaal forces. Reports from Swaziland confirm the statement that he has done his utmost to secure the concession of that country, or its subjection to the protectorate of the Transvaal.

The Free State Volksraad has approved of the construction of a railway from Bloemfontein to Kimberley by concession. Reports prevail along the Transvaal border that the troops are to leave the country, and the return of a portion of the force sustains this impression. Gey van Pettius is said to be at Pretoria.

The Cape Budget shows a reduction of the previous deficit with a surplus for next year.

The *Times* correspondent says the Church of England Council has declined the proposal of the Bishops to unite the Church in South Africa, and it refers the question back to them for reconsideration. Failing a favourable response, it will proceed to nominate a successor to Dr. Colenso.

ZULULAND.—The second Synod of the diocese of Zululand began on the second Sunday after Easter. The Bishop delivered his charge in the memorial church of St. Vincent, Isandhlwana. In it he dealt with the affairs of the diocese in the last two years—years of uncertainty, change, and trouble—made a reference to the rest of the province, especially Bloemfontein and Maritzburg, and closed with a question as to mission work, "Are our methods right?" in which he contrasted the home and industrial side of mission work with the itinerant and preaching, and exhorted to a greater attention to the latter. All the clergy were present at the Synod, including the Revs. R. Robertson, Kwamagwaza ; S. M. Samuelson, St. Paul's ; Joel Jackson, Swaziland ; J. T. Carmichael, Isandhlwana ; E. Farmer, St. Andrew's, Lower Tugela (priests) ; the Rev. G. F. Carlsen, Komati ; J. Martyn, Isandhlwana ; W. Afrikander, Kwamagwaza ; C. Johnson, St. Augustine's ; and G. E. Hales, Swaziland. The agenda paper dealt with the state of the country as affecting the Mission, the council of reference beyond the province, the treatment of some heathen customs in their relation to Christianity, the suitability of some books and forms of prayer issued by the Bishop and laid upon the table of the Synod—a Catechism, hymnbook, Form for Admission of Catechumens, Prayers for Catechumens before their dismissal at Holy Communion, Forms of Private Morning and Evening Prayer. Two of the Mission stations, St. Paul's and Kwamagwaza, are in the territory occupied by the Boers. The Bishop has himself been re-establishing Kwamagwaza, which was in ruins, and he was requested by the Synod to hold it in such a way as to satisfy Boer, English, or native demands till a settlement of the land takes place. The Synod thought a council of reference might under the circumstances be desirable. The Zulu translations and forms of prayer mainly drawn up by the Bishop seemed generally approved. The afternoons of the week were devoted to revision of the Prayer-Book, and a revised form of Morning and Evening Prayer, with Litany and the greater part of Holy Communion, was finished. The rest of the Office with some Psalms was left to the Bishop to revise with the help of the Revs. C. Johnson and S. M. Samuelson, so that a book for daily use might soon be in the people's hands. Hitherto Bishop Callaway's book has been in use ; but the language in use in Zululand is different from that in Natal and further south. There are now eight mission stations in the diocese, with 770 baptised on the roll and 313 communicants. The Kwamagwaza people who were rendered homeless last year, and have since been in the reserve, are contemplating building again near Empanahleni, an old station (SS. Philip and James) of Bishop Wilkinson's time. This will make a ninth station, and, as the Bishop said in his charge, the troubles of the country seem to cause an increase in the work and greater call upon its resources. The Rev. E. Farmer acted as Bishop's chaplain, and Mr. F. Roach as secretary to the Synod.

AFGHANISTAN.—Writing from Sanjau on the 1st inst., the *Daily News* correspondent with the Afghan Frontier Commission says :—

"The cession of Penjdeh is considered here a *fait accompli*. Provision is being made for moving in light marching order if necessary ; but it is uncertain whether this indicates the meeting of the two Delimitation Commissions or the return of the British Commission to India through Afghanistan."

June 2.—"When the Afghan frontier negotiations are sufficiently advanced and peace is assured, the removal of the British camp to Obeh is proposed. Thence the survey of the surrounding country can be carried on. Meantime, as forage is scarce here, the Boundary Commission may perhaps return to the banks of the Heri Rud, near Herat.

"The Russian withdrawal from Penjdeh is doubtless a concession to British and Afghan public feeling. Native opinion hereabouts has been favourably impressed by this movement.

"Colonel Lockhart's mission to Gilgit will possibly be the precursor of the Oxus expedition. Some half-dozen officers of the Survey and the Political and Intelligence Departments, with a small escort, will compose the party. It is important that all the roads and passes across the Hindu Khush towards Cabul should be surveyed for strategical purposes."

The St. Petersburg *Novosti* of Saturday professed to have received private information from the Caucasus that the Ameer had been assassinated by his attendants. No confirmation of this has been received in India or at the Foreign Office, nor from any other source from St. Petersburg, and the *Daily Telegraph* says the news was telegraphed to the *Novosti* from Vienna, and not from the Caucasus at all.

MEXICO.—A waterspout which burst on Saturday near Lagos, in Mexico, produced terrible effects. At Puebla Cuaranta the water in a few minutes rose to a height of 25ft., the flood sweeping down the valley, and destroying everything which opposed it. More then 200 lives were lost, and great distress prevails. A waterspout burst about a mile above the large town of Guanajuato, covering the entire place with a body of water 6ft. deep. An entertainment was being given at the theatre in honour of ex-President Gonzales when the waterspout burst. The building was crowded. An alarm was given at half-past ten, causing a wild panic. Everyone rushed to the doors, ladies fainting ; the weak were trampled upon, many persons were fatally injured, and several were killed. The floods in the streets forced open many doors, inflicting damage which is estimated at more than 100,000 dollars. There was a large loss of life.

TURKEY.—Savas Pasha, formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Governor of Crete, and has left Constantinople for the island. Much apprehension was expressed of disturbances as the appointment is highly unpopular in the island, and the Pasha himself was only induced to accept the post by the Sultan's express command. On his arrival on Thursday he was met by a deputation from the Assembly, who protested against his appointment. There were, however, no disturbance at the landing, as by previous order the troops had been concentrated. From Athens it is reported that there have already been disturbances in the island, and that by the advice of the Christian members of the Assembly, the Christian public officials have resigned their offices.

An official despatch from Salonica announces that detachments of Turkish troops and gendarmerie have encountered in the mountains of Kodja Balkan, in the province of Kossova, a band of eighty Bulgarian brigands, from the district of Kustendil. A sanguinary conflict ensued, in which the brigands suffered severely, their chief Tashko being captured.

On Saturday, in the Stamboul quarter of Constantinople, a fire destroyed 300 houses, including fifty shops, and three mosques. Although several people were injured, only one person perished in the flames.

EGYPT.—A despatch from Lord Wolseley on the withdrawal from the Soudan has just been published, dated the 16th of April. His object was to state in the strongest possible manner, that, both from a military and a financial point of view, and also with regard to the general well-being of Egypt proper, the growing power of the Mahdi must be met not by a purely defensive policy on the frontier, whether at Assouan or Wady Halfa, but by his overthrow in the neighbourhood of Khartoum. In fact (says Lord Wolseley) the programme enunciated in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister in February must be carried out in its entirety. Lord Wolseley proceeds to say that should a purely defensive policy be adopted—

"This is what we shall have done for our ally, the Khedive, with one of his chief provinces, and what we shall have done for that province itself. We shall have found it comparatively peaceful and secure, we shall leave it a prey to plunder and to murder. These, however, are not purely military questions, and therefore I will not dwell further on them. . . . To sum up. The struggle with the Mahdi, or rather, perhaps, with Mahdi-ism, must come sooner or later. We can accept it now and have done with it once and for all, or we can allow all the military reputation we have gained at the cost of so much toil and hard fighting, all the bloodshed and all the expenditure of the past campaign, to go for nothing, and try and

stave the final struggle off for a few years. These years will be years of trouble and disturbance for Egypt, of burden and strain to our military resources, and the contest that will come in the end will be no less than that which is in front of us now. This is all we shall gain by a defensive policy."

General Greaves and his staff have sailed from Souakim for England in the *Erin*. General Hudson has assumed the command. The *Erin* also takes three companies of Engineers. Preparations for passing the summer at Souakim are being made, and as the whole force will be well quartered it is hoped that sickness need not be greatly feared. A spy reports scarcity of food, and the spread of smallpox among the tribes as far as Kassala and Berber. The rebels besieging Kassala are said to be retiring in consequence. According to another report, to which official credence seems to be given, Kassala fell at the end of last month.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, in a message of Tuesday's date, gives the following remarkable story :—"A Coptic merchant, who was one of the few men who managed to escape from Khartoum after the massacre, has arrived here, after a long and painful journey, and has made a most astounding statement to the authorities. He asserts in the most positive manner, partly from his own observation and partly from information supplied to him on the spot by credible eye-witnesses, that shortly after the massacre which followed the entry of the rebels, and before the terrible confusion resulting therefrom had subsided, the Mahdi, hearing that Gordon had been slain, ordered his head to be brought before him. The rebels at once produced the head of Herr Hansal, the Austrian Consul, which was at first accepted as that of the gallant Gordon. But as it lay upon the ground it was recognised by one of the rebels, who knew Hansal well, and a hue and cry for Gordon was at once raised. The city was scoured by parties of the rebels, and every Europeon corpse was examined, but without result. Indeed, no trace could be found either of Gordon or of Abougatas, a rich merchant long resident in Khartoum, or of Gordon's two cavasses. Neither were any documents found, and the most diligent search failed to bring to light any of the clothing usually worn by Gordon. The narrator, therefore, believes that there is at least a slight chance that Gordon may have made good his escape, and that he has fled south in the direction of Sennaar. I have seen the Coptic merchant referred to, and can testify that he is a smart, honest-looking man, whom one would be inclined to trust."

In connection with the above story, the Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* says :—"Some Greeks who arrived here from Berber affirm positively that they have seen Gordon alive in that town. A brief cross-examination, however, effectually dispels any belief in their story."

In continuance of the friendly communications which have been held with the Copts in Cairo by the Association for the Furtherance of Christianity in Egypt, the Rev. George Greenwood was requested by the association to proceed to Egypt in November last year, and he remained in Cairo till the middle of March last. During that period he had ample opportunities of making himself acquainted with the ecclesiastical authorities of the Coptic Church and of studying the doctrines, discipline, and ritual of that Church. The result of his visit was embodied in a report read by him on May 15 last at a meeting of the association, and is now published in the form of a pamphlet. Mr. Greenwood not only gives us very interesting details concerning this Church, which numbers nearly half a million of worshippers, and is, as he says, the backbone of Christianity in that downtrodden land; he also makes a practical suggestion for enabling the association, or rather the Church of England, to raise the whole tone of spiritual and moral life in Egypt without seeking to draw proselytes to itself from any existing Church. This he proposes to do by the establishment of a school in Cairo, combining a good secular education with religious training; the latter, he is careful to say, having no tendency to render the Coptic pupils disloyal to their Church. Such pupils, he says, would be in time well fitted for holy orders, and might possibly be sought for above others. The head of the institution should be an English clergyman, with almost autocratic power; the pupils should be resident, and the school should be open to all comers. The association, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is president, after hearing Mr. Greenwood's paper read, accepted the proposals and directed its committee to take steps for carrying them into effect.

A large dredger having been sunk near Kantara, in the middle of the Suez Canal, by the steamship *Melville*, all traffic, a Port Said telegram states, is completely stopped, and cannot be resumed for at least a fortnight.

According to advices from Ottawa, all Big Bear's prisoners from Fort Pitt have been released without having been maltreated. Mrs. Delaney and Mrs. Gowanlock are among the number.

Following the lines of similar measures in Australia and at the Cape, the Indian Government has decided to introduce a Bill conferring copyright for telegrams published in newspapers.

The *Stampa*, a prominent Italian Liberal journal, tells the following strange story :—On the night between the 19th and 20th of May the old church of Sta. Maria de Gradi, in the city of Viterbo, was entered by the secretary to the Municipality, the city engineer, and a band of workmen. They proceeded to the tomb of Pope Clement IV., whose body had lain in a marble sarcophagus in the church since his death in 1268. The sarcophagus was opened, and an inner coffin of wood was found. Upon opening this they found the remains in a fair state of preservation, and clad in the vestments suitable to the Papal rank. They did not touch anything, but closed both coffin and sarcophagus. Next morning they returned, accompanied by the Sindico of the city and the sub-Prefect of the district. The corpse was then taken out of the coffin; the ring, in which there was a precious stone, was taken from the finger; the richly-embroidered silk gloves and sandals were torn off. The agraffe which fastened the cope on the breast, and which was richly mounted with precious stones, was cut out; and portions of the cope, which was of gorgeous workmanship and in good preservation, were cut away. The remains were then huddled into a box and sent off to the municipal buildings; the articles that had been removed were, according to the Sindico, to be placed in the museum of Viterbo. The *Stampa* observes that if a poor man's grave were thus violated the law would give some months' imprisonment to the criminals. Will not the same measure be given to the disturbers of a Pope's tomb, which is one of Italy's historic monuments? And it calls on all the newspapers of the Peninsula to publish the outrage, and bring public opinion to demand the punishment of the principals, whoever they may be.

There is much reason to fear that the occupation of Tonkin, under the Tientain Convention and the new treaty of peace between France and China, will not be accomplished without much bloodshed. The regular Chinese troops are being withdrawn within their own frontiers, and no trouble is anticipated from that quarter. With the Black Flags, however, the case is different. These, with their wives and families, amount to over 200,000 souls. In their origin they were Chinese outlaws after the Taiping rebellion, and their numbers were increased from time to time by fugitives from Chinese justice. They were not altogether the pirates and robbers which they have been represented. They brought under cultivation a large tract of country, hitherto in a wild state, in North-western Tonkin, between Tuyen-Kuan and Laokai, where they led an independent agricultural life under their chief Liu Jung Fu, who, when the Annamites found they could not subdue him, was made Governor of the province which their efforts had rescued from the jungle. At the outbreak of the trouble in Tonkin the Black Flag leader joined in resisting the French. His troops garrisoned Sontay, Bac Ninh, and Hunghoa, and up to the closing scenes of the campaign were the only men of Chinese blood who fought with marked courage and determination. For some months he had to support the struggle alone. Now, however, peace is arranged, but China has forgotten the Black Flags. She has made no provision for them. Are they to be allowed to remain in their old territory, or to return to China? What is to be done with these 200,000 people? One thing is now qnite certain. Liu Jung Fu and his people do not intend to be dispossessed of their territory without resistance, and as they live in a wild, mountainous region, and are brave men, accustomed to fighting, they will probably give General Courcy abundant work if he persists in meddling with them. It is to be hoped that the Chinese in the final negotiations will not forget to make some provision for their valiant countrymen in Tonkin; for it is clear that the Black Flags will not passively allow themselves to be transferred from hand to hand as it may please Li Hung Chang or M. Patenôtre. They claim a voice in the final settlement of their future fate. None of the parties of the Franco-Chinese conflict have a tithe of their claim to respect and consideration; and if China deserts them now, they will probably protect their own interests with as much courage as they have defended those of China for several years past.

IRELAND.

It is stated that a letter was sent to the Queen by the Archbishop of Chambéry during her recent visit to Aix-les-Bains, thanking Her Majesty for the liberty accorded and the protection given to Catholic missions in the British colonies, and assuring Her Majesty that she had, as she deserved, the obedience, love, and loyalty of those of her Catholic subjects with whom he had come in contact. Her Majesty is said to have been much pleased with the letter, and to have placed it in the hands of an Irish nobleman, by whom it has been communicated to a representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Cork.

A number of traders in Limerick have transferred their custom from the Waterford and Limerick Railway to the Great Southern and Western Company, because the former company declined to accept a tender for the station refreshment-room of a man who happened to be a Nationalist.

The closing meeting of the Dublin Citizens' Reception Committee was held on Saturday. The report showed that the total expenses amounted to £7,752, exceeding the receipts by nearly £2,000, the difference being borne by a call of 5s. 6d. on the guarantors. A resolution to present a memorial to Government reiterating the desire of loyal Irishmen to see a Royal residence established in the country was unanimously passed.

The honour of knighthood has been conferred on Professor C. A. Cameron, medical officer of health and city analyst, in recognition of his services in the cause of public health in Ireland.

A fund has been opened to place a memorial in St. Peter's Church to the late Archdeacon Lee, who was for nineteen years rector of the parish, and was also Archbishop King's Lecturer in Divinity in the University of Dublin.

The Bishop of Tuam has appointed the Rev. John Hamilton, incumbent of Armagh-Down, to the vacant canonry in Tuam Cathedral.

The Archbishop of Dublin preached on Monday in last week at the annual festival in Christ Church Cathedral, held in connection with the Girls' Friendly Society.

The Court of the General Synod delivered its judgment on the Meath case last week. The Court stated that it would advise the Bench of Bishops that the return made to them by the Synod of Meath was illegal and void, and that the Synod would be again convened for the election of a Bishop.

The Court of the Fishmongers' Company having (the *City Press* says) resolved to dispose of their Irish estates, offered them to their tenants on liberal terms. The tenants numbered about 350, the majority of rents being under £20 per annum, and only fifteen exceeding £80 per annum. The gross rental was nearly £9,000 per annum, upon the whole well paid, but the amount that reached London was seldom more than £3,000. County cess, new roads, reduction of rent, educational buildings, and other improvements absorbed the balance. The estate was offered in three forms. First, cash purchase; secondly, half-yearly payments, extending over thirty years, interest included, to redeem itself in that time; and, thirdly, payment by instalments at fixed periods. The result was that 300 tenants accepted the offer in accordance with the second form, none under the third, and, we believe, only one under the first. The estate has thus been sold at something like twenty years' purchase. The whole estate comprised about 20,000 acres, of which 16,000 acres of the best land has been sold. The bog land and woods are understood to be still in the market.

An armed party, with faces blackened, on Tuesday night attacked the house of a man named William Gannon, residing at Bally Killmavray. Several shots were fired, one of which wounded Gannon. His wife and children narrowly escaped injury. Gannon, it appears, has refused to give a portion of his land to a neighbouring farmer.

An account of an interview with Mr. Parnell on the political crisis was printed in *United Ireland* on Thursday :—"Mr. Parnell says the overthrow of the Ministry is a consequence of the policy of the Irish party to turn out the Government at any cost, as a lesson to all future Governments that the Irish people will not submit to unconstitutional government or coercion. They should have succeeded in expelling the Ministry long ago but for the secession of twenty members of the party. Were it not for their connivance it would have been impossible to have passed the first or second Coercion Acts; and the Land Act would have been a much more drastic measure and far better administered, while judicial murders could not have taken place and the criminal administration of Ireland by Mr. Forster and Earl Spencer could not have been proceeded with to such lengths without being chastised by the defeat of the Government. Almost the only remaining Irish industry had been saved from a permanent burden of £500,000 a year, and he anticipated much more important results, not only in having got rid of a coercionist Government, but in all probability that of having put an end to coercion in Ireland for ever. The results of the labours of the Irish party proved the advantages of a policy of boldness and honesty. They had not only got rid of coercion but secured household suffrage in its fulness to Ireland, and the full representation of 103 members; while the Redistribution Bill was safe; and the registration law in Ireland, which was in a deplorable state, was not only assimilated in all its beneficial points to the English law, but even made better by the non-disqualification of persons receiving medical relief. The Irish party would judge the new Government by their acts, and, if an attempt was not made to carry a Coercion Bill, would give that Government a fair trial, having never attacked for the sake of attack but to save the country from injury. As to the arrangements for the general election, there were, he said, fifty constituencies in England and Scotland where the Irish vote was sufficiently strong to return a Liberal or a Tory as they pleased, and four or five where he hoped Nationalists would be returned; but no steps have yet been taken to select candidates, it being undesirable to distract the energies of the party from the work of registration and securing that the fullest possible number should be admitted to the franchise."

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

Considerably more than a hundred Peers were in attendance, in view of the fact that the principal business on the Orders was the consideration in Committee of the Redistribution Bill. Lord Kimberley moved the committal of the Bill in a long speech containing many statistics as to its operation, but the debate on the general question was not continued at great length. Lord Denman's motion for the rejection of the Bill, because of its numerical basis, was defeated without either discussion or division, and the only other preliminary motion was Lord Emly's, in favour of giving a representation to the Royal University of Ireland. All the Irish Peers who spoke supported the proposal, among them being Lords Powerscourt, Granard, Limerick, and Longford, the Duke of Abercorn, and Lords Rosse and Fitzgerald. Lord Salisbury also expressed regret that the Government had not found themselves able to give a member to the University. Lord Emly, however, did not carry the motion to a division. A proposal of Lord Norton, that no division of a county, except in Lancashire and Yorkshire, should receive the name of a town, received no support. On the question of nomenclature, Lord Salisbury had framed an amendment providing means by which the Privy Council might give effect hereafter to the wishes of localities as to the names of their districts; but he gave way to Lord Kimberley, as the Government had drafted a similar amendment. It appeared, however, that the Opposition was not satisfied with the form of the amendment, and it was eventually withdrawn. Lord Jersey's amendment in favour of putting an end to the disabilities of certain "scheduled" voters received support from Lord Salisbury and various Conservative Peers, but was not pressed to a division in face of the strong opposition offered by the Government. An amendment moved by Lord Lothian, in favour of transferring the municipal borough of Jedburgh from the county of Roxburghshire to the borough of Hawick, was supported by Lord Salisbury, and upon a division was carried by 66 votes against 53. The schedule of the Bill passed very rapidly through Committee, and only two amendments were taken to a division By this means the Donnybrook Division of Dublin county was named St. Stephen's and the Batley Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire was named Morley. At the division on the latter question a curious mistake occurred. When the House had been cleared it was found that only three tellers remained, and, as all the rest of the Peers had gone into the lobbies and been locked in, there seemed to be some doubt whether the House must not be reassembled in order to rectify the omission. A less formal method of effecting the object was at length found, and although Lord Redesdale, the Chairman of Committees, appeared to entertain doubts as to the regularity of the course taken, Lord Dartmouth was requested to return from the lobby, and to tell in favour of the name given to the division in the Lower House. The Committee stage of the Bill occupied the House in all rather less than four hours, being completed shortly after half past eight o'clock.

Before the Lords adjourned, at a quarter before nine, the Secretary for the Colonies was invited by Lord Jersey to make a statement respecting the alleged Boer claims upon St. Lucia Bay and the asserted rights of the German Government in the same quarter. He stated that the Government has repudiated the pretensions of the Boers and the Republic of Zululand, and that an arrangement has been made under which nothing more is likely to be heard of the title of Germany.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

In this House a very large number of members on both sides were present, because of the expected debate on the Revenue Bill. At the commencement of the sitting a petition from Glasgow, with 71,407 signatures, against the increased duty on whisky, was brought to the table by Dr. Cameron and Mr. P. Henderson—apparently with some difficulty, from its great bulk and weight. Sir Peter Lumsden's arrival in England was brought in various ways to the mind of the House. Mr. Onslow caused a good deal of disturbance on the Ministerial side of the House by giving notice of a question as to why no representative of the Government was at Charing-cross to receive the General, and Mr. J. K. Cross made a statement as to Sir Peter Lumsden's relations with the Government. The Under-Secretary's information was to the effect that the Commission held by Sir Peter Lumsden has not been cancelled, and that although "he has always held and asserted, irrespective of party conditions, the opinion that the evacuation of Candahar was an error, he disavows any intention of making an attack upon the Government." Inquiry was made by Sir George Campbell and other members as to the surprise at McNeill's zereba on March 22, into which, as would be remembered, Lord Hartington undertook that an investigation should be made on the spot by Lord Wolseley. The necessary instructions for this purpose were given, but Lord Wolseley had simply replied deprecating any further inquiry. He said :—"I strongly deprecate, save in the most extreme cases, inquiring too rigorously into the conduct of commanders after unsatisfactory engagements. It is hopeless to expect to find a general who does not make mistakes, and the history of war shows that the great generals have done so often. There have, indeed, been many bad cases of mistakes in which the immediate removal of the general has been called for; but, short of these, I think it unwise to inquire too minutely into the conduct of a general, and to publish to the world a general condemnation of it, which simply takes away from the general implicated all confidence in his troops, without, so far as I can see, any compensating advantage whatever." By the joint exertions of Sir F. Milner, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. A. J. Balfour—though with some difficulty—Mr. Chamberlain and other members of the Government were induced to admit that the anxiety that they have shown in the last few days to remove the disfranchising operation of medical relief is absolutely new-born, and that the spokesmen of the Government originally took the same view as the majority of the House of Lords.

Mr. Childers proposed at half-past five the second reading of the Inland Revenue Bill. He reserved his speech, but informed the House that as the quantity of spirits taken out of bond since the increased duty was imposed has been much less than the average, and the consumer has been charged increased prices, no reduction would be allowed upon payments made at the higher rate of duty for spirits taken out of bond. The Chancellor of the Exchequer also examined in detail statements as to the effect of the revenue changes which have appeared in the *Economist*, and informed the House that the revenue derived from spirits in England is £19,200,000, in Scotland £4,100,000, and in Ireland £3,600,000.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach moved the following amendment :—"That this House regards the increase proposed by this Bill in the duties levied on beer and spirits as inequitable in the absence of a corresponding addition to the duties on wine, and declines to impose fresh taxation on real property until effect has been given to its resolution of 17th April, 1883, and of 28th March, 1884, by which it has acknowledged further measures of relief to be due to ratepayers in counties and boroughs in respect of local charges imposed on them for national services." After exposing the eccentric character of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposals with regard to whisky and beer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach fully endorsed the principle enunciated by Mr. Childers that taxation should not fall on property alone. He also pointed out the difficulty created for Chancellors of the Exchequer by legislation which has taken off the taxation from almost all articles of consumption, and asked why the net had not been spread wider. If increased expenditure was necessary, it was as necessary for those who drank tea as for those who drank beer, and for those who drank wine as for either—a sentiment which gave unmistakable satisfaction to the Opposition. The duty of sixpence on tea was very moderate—indeed, the Premier on one occasion had spoken of 1s. 5d. per lb. as a minimum for times of peace. The financial statement seemed, in fact, to be controlled by the Radical teetotalers, and they did not care to pay for the policy of the Government. These declarations were warmly cheered, as also was the whole concluding section of the speech, in which the injustice of the new burdens thrown upon the landed interest was exposed.

Sir Charles Dilke followed Sir Michael Hicks-Beach with a violent party speech, in which he charged him with seeking to impose a tax on tea and with insulting the teetotalers. By way of retort the member for Chelsea talked of "pothouse politicians," and he stated explicitly that the Government, if beaten, would resign. Lord George Hamilton, who followed him, reminded him that he had himself addressed very great numbers of meetings at what he called pothouses, and upon this point a brisk conversation ensued. After Lord George Hamilton's speech the debate passed from the front benches. Mr. O'Sullivan in a very long speech inveighed against the Budget proposals as a fatal stroke at one of the three remaining trades in Ireland. Mr. Arthur Arnold gave the Government his usual support, and Mr. Whitbread, while he did not altogether approve their proposals, promised in consideration of the modifications which had been introduced that he would not oppose the Bill. During the evening and until eleven o'clock the debate proceeded in a practically empty House, but interest then revived with the next important speech from the front benches.

Mr. Childers replied to the speech of Lord George Hamilton, made four hours earlier, and the substance of his reply was contained in an elaborate sarcasm, founded upon a citation by the member for Middlesex of Lord Beaconsfield's famous adage that the party at present in power are "the friends of every country

but their own." Mr. Childers said the countries which the Government had befriended in the treatment of the wine duties were particularly the Australian colonies, and that he hoped the colonies would observe that they were regarded by the Conservative party as foreign countries. Coming to the general question, he said the increase of spirit duties was not likely, in the opinion of the Revenue authorities, to cause any considerable increase of smuggling. The object and intention of the changes the Government proposed Mr. Childers desired once more to explain. When it became necessary to raise a large sum for military expenditure, the Government considered it right to revert to some object of consumption, as well as to property, and what the particular object should be was a subordinate question compared with the necessity of asserting that principle. He hoped the principle was now admitted, and would in future be adhered to. He also pointed out that the revenue on alcoholic liquors had in the last few years produced a decreased amount of revenue.

Sir S. Northcote, who was heartily cheered on rising, expressed a warm satisfaction that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had brought the discussion back to the principles of scientific finance, but was altogether surprised at the manner in which these principles were applied. For example, in defiance of a well-known canon of finance, the increased taxation is being applied to articles which produced a falling duty. Mr. Childers demurred to this statement of his policy, but was obliged to admit that this is the substance of his proposal. Sir Stafford proceeded to expose the insincerity of the attempt made by Sir Charles Dilke to raise a false issue out of the speech of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, and to pit tea against beer. What was at the basis of the Ministerial proposals, he contended, amid the cheers of the Opposition, was a desire to appear as the friends of temperance, and the authors of penalties upon another class whom they accused of being the people who rush the country into war. But the people who ought to be punished for rushing the country into the expenses of war were, however, as the leader of the Opposition demonstrated, the Government and its thick-and-thin supporters. He went on to show what great opportunities of re-adjusting taxation have been lost by the Government at the present juncture in the financial history of the country, and said it was the final point in a career of failures, failure having marked the whole financial policy of the Government. With regard to the principles on which taxation ought to be regulated, his own principles were these—First, to raise the money which has to be raised in the form which is most to the advantage or least to the disadvantage of the country; and, secondly, to keep taxation as steady as possible. In conclusion, Sir Stafford reviewed in caustic terms the relations between the financial professions of the Government and their actual conduct.

Mr. Gladstone, who had only once interrupted the leader of the Opposition, replied with great warmth. He described Sir Stafford Northcote's principles as what some might call truisms and others platitudes. To the accusation that the financial policy of the Government had been a policy of failures, he said it came from one who was himself "the author of habitual deficits." Notwithstanding compliments paid to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to his recognition of the principle of indirect taxation, the Premier asserted that the course taken by the Opposition was calculated seriously to hinder any Chancellor of the Exchequer from following the same course. As to the principle, "Pay your way," Mr. Gladstone explained that it is not intended for years of exceptional stress like the present. He attributed the exertions of the Opposition to the death duties, which were "an invasion of the sanctuary of landed property," and declared that he would be very much surprised if they did not come to regret the step they had taken to-night, as well as many other steps they had lately taken. They quoted his speeches—which seemed to be a favourite literature with them—but these were speeches made thirty years ago. Why did they not quote what he had said since? This demand for the production of an immeasurable volume of speeches greatly amused the Opposition until the Premier passed away to his final denunciation of this regular Opposition, this loyal Opposition, this national Opposition, this patriotic Opposition, this Constitutional Opposition—for its opposition to the financial measures of the Government in a time of danger, which "has not yet passed away." This impassioned attack upon the Opposition was delivered in vociferous tones, till the strain upon the Premier's voice in his final passages made him almost too hoarse to speak. He concluded, however, by challenging an appeal to the country, and declaring that the issue was for the Government one of life and death.

The division began under circumstances of a very commonplace character, and there were no signs of excitement until a moment or two before the result was actually known. Lord Kensington then entered from the Ayes Lobby, and as this was evidence of the exhaustion of the Ministerial strength, while members were still trooping in from the other lobby, the Opposition and the Irish members on both sides of the House who had supported Sir M. Hicks-Beach's amendment displayed a livelier interest in the proceedings. An instant later the result became known, and the intelligence threw the House into a condition of literally frantic excitement. Crowded though the benches on both sides were, and watched as the House was from all sides by curious eyes, many members were as unable to conceal the delight they experienced as others were to disguise their dissatisfaction. The leader of the Fourth Party was with difficulty restrained by his friends from leaping on the bench behind him, and as it was he waved his hat and cheered in a voice which could be distinguished above the indescribable uproar. The Irish party indulged in manifestations which the Speaker vainly endeavoured to check. Mr Healy shouted "Buckshot" and "Coercion;" some of his friends called out opprobrious terms which had been applied to Lord Spencer and others. Mr. Chamberlain appeared greatly amused by the whole proceedings. The Prime Minister was ostensibly penning a letter upon a blotting-pad which he rested on his knees. At length the numbers were announced:—

For the Bill.....	252
For the amendment	264
Majority for the amendment ...	12

Cheering of a more orthodox kind then gave vent to the general excitement, and when some measure of quiet had been restored the Premier moved the adjournment of the House, which immediately took place at ten minutes to two.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday.

When the private business had been disposed of, Earl Granville said:—Your Lordships are aware, not only from the ordinary means of communication, but also by the proceedings of the House of Commons, which have been communicated to this House, what took place in that assembly last night. In consequence of that event, I have to move that your Lordships do adjourn till Friday. It will perhaps be convenient that the Provisional Order Bills should be taken before I make the motion.

The formal business with regard to the Provisional Order Bills having been disposed of, Earl Granville again rose and said:—I now beg to move the adjournment of the House till Friday. I may state that the sittings will be continued for the purpose of judicial business and also for Private Bill Committees. Lord Denman, who had a notice on the paper to move the second reading of the Women's Suffrage Bill, said that this subject had been before their Lordships for several years, and he hoped that the House would now proceed with it.

The motion was then agreed to, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock, when the attendance of members at prayers was unusually large. At five minutes past four Mr. Gladstone entered the House, and, after a brief but seemingly amusing conversation with the Speaker and the Clerk at the table, again withdrew. Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Charles Dilke were the first Ministers to take their seats on the front bench after the withdrawal of the Prime Minister, and then the House began to fill. Mr. Gladstone took his accustomed seat on the Ministerial bench at twenty-five minutes past four, and was loudly cheered by his supporters. Sir M. Hicks-Beach, who came in shortly afterwards, was also received with much enthusiasm.

Resignation of the Government.—Ministerial Statement.

At half-past four Mr. Gladstone, whose rising was the signal for renewed cheering, said: Immediately, Sir, on having arrived at the hour when public business usually commences, I am desirous of addressing a very few words to the House, and I do so before any questions have been addressed to my colleagues or myself upon the ground that I perceive that some or many of those questions relate to the intentions and views of responsible Ministers; and, therefore, if the House concurs in the impression which I entertain of the present situation, they are of a nature that obviously had better be deferred. Sir, in consequence of the division last night, the House will not be surprised when I state that the Cabinet assembled to-day, and thought it their duty, through me, to submit a dutiful communication to Her Majesty. It would be altogether premature on my part were I at present to allude particularly to the nature of that communication; but I will say to the House, as has been said on former occasions, what indeed is obvious, that some days at any rate—some few days at the very least—must elapse before the result of that communication can be arrived at so as to be made known to the House. Obvious reasons of both convenience and propriety, and I think invariable custom, have established the rule that during intervals of the nature of that which is now before us the House refrains from the transaction of its ordinary business. I propose, Sir, to act upon that principle by making a motion to the effect that the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Friday next. I make that motion before the motion for the adjournment of the House, allowing an interval between them—first, because it is no right of mine to proscribe the transaction of business should the House be inclined to attempt it; but I humbly venture to recommend that the usual practice be adhered to. It would be unnecessary, I think, that we should go through the form of postponing the orders of the day, because, by the rules of the House, those orders which are upon the paper in the interval would reappear as dropped orders when the House reassembled, and it would then be the pleasure of the House, without doubt, to make suitable arrangements respecting them. It would, however, be desirable that the usual motion should be made to allow the sittings of Committees to continue, therein also adhering to the established practice of Parliament. Sir, under those circumstances, I think I have no more to say except to make the motion "that this House at its rising do adjourn until Friday next."

The Speaker having put the question,

Sir S. Northcote, who was received with loud Opposition cheers, said: Mr. Speaker, I think that the course which the right hon. gentleman proposes is, as he says, both convenient and usual. The only question that I wish to ask him is this—I did not quite understand whether it was his intention as soon as this motion shall have been adopted, immediately to move the adjournment of the House, or whether he proposes that other business should be carried on. And I should also wish to ask him whether he considers that there is any business which would be likely to be of special importance to be transacted in connection with the Redistribution Bill in the other House. I do not know whether that is a matter on which the right hon. gentleman is prepared to give the House any information, but I put that question because, as the House is aware, the question of the Redistribution Bill is a question in which days are of importance.

Mr. Gladstone: May I be allowed, Sir, to reply to the question of the right hon. gentleman? I intended to make myself clear to this effect—that, although I have no right, and it would be going out of the usual course, to make a motion for the purpose of forcibly putting aside business which is on the paper, yet certainly the recommendation which I ventured to submit to the House was that it should entertain the motion for the adjournment of the House before the regular business commenced. The only reason, as far as my views are concerned, for any interval at all after the first motion, which is now in the hands of the Speaker, is simply this, that it is usual and convenient to make a motion to allow Committees to sit, notwithstanding the adjournment of the House. The right hon. gentleman has referred to a point of considerable importance which has not escaped my attention, namely, whether we shall reserve to ourselves the discretion to ask the House to proceed with any matter relating to the Redistribution of Seats Bill, in case occasion should arise. That subject had not escaped our attention, and what I have to observe upon it, in the first place and principally, is that it does not depend upon us, but upon the House of Lords, to regulate proceedings in such a way as to bring the subject before us or not. If the House of Lords should think fit to carry forward the Redistribution Bill so as to cause it to reach this House at the time when we reassemble on Friday, it certainly would then be our duty to consider and to advise the House to the best of our ability as to the propriety of proceeding to deal with any amendments which have been made by the House of Lords. That would be undoubtedly an unusual proceeding, and it would be one that could only be justified by a joint reference to two considerations, one of them that the other House of Parliament had thought fit to make a precedent on the ground of what it conceived to be urgent public reasons for proceeding with a particular piece of business, notwithstanding the adjournment of the House under peculiar circumstances, and the other that we were of opinion that those peculiar circumstances were such, and that the need for going forward speedily with the Seats Bill was so urgent as, when taken in connection with the general concurrence of opinion as to every important matter of principle embraced in the Bill, might possibly render it our duty to raise the question, notwithstanding the peculiarity of the position in which we stand. The question, however, Sir, I think I had better reserve for the present, inasmuch as it cannot arise, unless it be in consequence of proceedings which may or may not be taken in the other House, with respect to which, of course, I have no authentic information. Authentic information is more likely to be in the possession of the right hon. gentleman opposite than in mine; but so far as any information has reached me, it was not to the effect that the House of Lords was likely to proceed with the Bill in the interval which has to elapse between this time and Friday.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. Gladstone: I beg now to move "That all Committees of the House have leave to sit, notwithstanding the adjournment of the House."

This motion was also agreed to.

Mr. Gladstone: And, Sir, interpreting the silence of the House to mean consent, I beg leave to move "That this House do now adjourn."

The motion having been agreed to,

The House adjourned at twenty minutes to five o'clock.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The Peers of Scotland met at Holyrood Palace on Wednesday, to elect a Peer in room of the late Earl of Selkirk. The Earl of Lindsay was unanimously appointed. There were only three Peers present, but twenty-seven voted by proxy.

Exclusive of Mr. Speaker and the four tellers, there were 516 members in the House of Commons on Tuesday morning, when the Government was defeated on the amendment of Sir M. Hicks-Beach to the second reading of the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill. The majority (264) was made up of 195 English, 60 Irish, and nine Scotch members; and the minority (252) of 193 English, 14 Irish, and 45 Scotch. Of the 60 Scotch members, 54 were accounted for, and there were but six absentees, but of the 103 Irish, only 74 were represented. There were consequently 29 absentees, or rather more than a fourth of the whole body. The Government had the advantage of the support of all the official members, 33 in number. Of the 60 Irish members who voted against Ministers, 39 were followers of Mr. Parnell, 17 were Conservatives, and four belonged to the small body of Irish Whigs. Of the fourteen Irish who helped the Government to resist the amendment, seven were deserters from the Home Rule section. Mr. Bright, Mr. W. E. Forster, Mr. Goschen, and the other "corner men" all went with the Government. Fifteen Liberals paired in favour of the Government, and the following were absent without pairs:—Mr. Allman, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Barran, Mr. Biddulph, Sir R. Blennerhassett, Mr. Briggs, Mr. Brinton, Mr. Brogden, Mr. A. H. Brown, Mr. Buszard, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Cotes, Mr. Cowen, Hon. H. F. Cowper, Mr. Craig, Mr. Creyke, Mr. Crum, Mr. Davies (Pembrokeshire), Mr. Dickson (Dungannon), Mr. Duckham, Hon. J. C. Dundas, Mr. Earp, Lord Ebrington, Hon. C. W. Fitzwilliam, Hon. W. J. Fitzwilliam, Mr. Foljambe (Nottingham), General Sir Alexander Gordon, Mr. Gourley, Mr. Guest, Mr. S. Holland, Mr. Inderwick, Mr. C. H. James, Dr. Kinnear, Sir J. C. Lawrence, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Sir John Lubbock, Viscount Lymington, Mr. M'Intyre, Mr. C. B. M'Laren, Mr. Middleton, Sir F. A. Milbank, Mr. P. H. Muntz, Mr. Magniac, Mr. C. M. Palmer, Hon. W. H. Portman, Sir R. Green-Price, Mr. Pugh, Mr. J. N. Richardson, Mr. H. B. Samuelson, Hon. C. R. Spencer, the Marquis of Stafford, Mr. Storey, Mr. Villiers Stuart, Mr. Tillet, Sir Harry Verney, Mr. A. P. Vivian, Sir Sydney Waterlow, Mr. Wiggin, Mr. C. Wilson, and Mr. Woolf.

As several of the above gentlemen have explained as their reason for not being in their places at the time of the division, that from the terms of the whip they received they did not conclude that their presence was so urgently needed, Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., has, in reply, written a letter, in which he states absolutely that he sent out two four-lined whips in view of the division on Monday night, and supplemented these by telegrams wherever he thought there was any doubt of the letters not reaching the members for whom they were intended. Lord Richard adds that he made every exertion that was deemed advisable under the circumstances.

It is more than twelve years since a vote of the House of Commons has led to a resignation of the Ministry; the last occasion having of course been the defeat of Mr. Gladstone's Irish University Education Bill by a majority of 287 votes to 284, in March, 1873. The next antecedent occasion was a defeat of the same Minister on a detail of the Franchise Bill of 1866, when the figures were 315 to 304. In 1859 Lord Derby's second Cabinet was turned out by a formal vote of censure embodied in an amendment to the Address, and carried by 323 to 310 votes. In the previous year a division on the Conspiracy to Murder Bill had proved fatal to Lord Palmerston's first Government; the Opposition mustering 234, and Ministerialists only 215. In 1857 Lord Palmerston found himself in a minority of 14 on the China question, when he appealed from the House to the country. An overwhelming majority against the Government of the day must, by the very conditions of the Constitution, be extremely rare; and it is not very likely that we shall again see a Ministry flung out, as was that of Lord Aberdeen, by a vote of more than two to one (305 to 148). Even such a victory as Sir Robert Peel's in August, 1841—when Ministers were left in a minority of 91 on the Address—is not likely to be witnessed in the future.

Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., speaking at a meeting on Tuesday night at Henley-on-Thames in support of the candidature of Mr. C. W. Harcourt for the Southern Division of Oxfordshire, referred at some length to the division which had taken place in the House of Commons. He said that the Government, which came into office with a larger majority than had been known for a great many years in the political history of this country, had gone out because it had failed to do its duty to the people and by the great trust which had been reposed in it. That was simple truth. It had not been killed by Conservative votes, because they were powerless to do it, but by the deliberate abstention of men who were dissatisfied with their own leaders and disgusted with the vacillation of their own Government, and therefore refused to sustain that Government in its hour of trial and difficulty. He could not conceive any greater condemnation of a Government than that. He regretted very often that it was inevitable that they in the House of Commons should be compelled to take a party view of the politics of the day. They must be party men, because they could not carry on a Government or an Opposition without. Still it was reasonable to take a fair view of the case. He endeavoured to do that, and to impress it upon all those with whom he came in contact. This Government might be called a Government of facing both ways, of vacillation, of going up the hill and down the hill, and spending a great deal of treasure and blood, the consequences of which to the country were most serious and most alarming. Millions had been spent, and he believed that if every farthing of those millions had been poured into the sea the country would have been better off than it was at the present time. He would tell them why. It was because they had not acquired any single tangible result which justified war, which authorised expenditure, or the sacrifice of those millions of money and those thousands of human lives. It was not called war; they called it warlike operations. But if it was not war it was murder, because these men could not make up their own minds, could not realise their duty, could not arrive at a sense of their personal responsibility, and could not feel that if they permitted slaughter to be done by other men it was equivalent to slaughter done by themselves. That slaughter had been aimless and purposeless, and had brought about enormous sacrifices of some of the best lives that England had ever seen. They had done all this to get them out of immediate difficulties, and they had nothing to show for the Vote of Credit but a few guns and perhaps a few ships. These were grave facts, and he appealed to them to select for their members, and induce others to select for their members, men who had the courage of their opinions, who would be honest and truthful, who would face the obligations which they undertook, and who would not hold out to the people of England expectations which never would and never could be realised.

Speaking on Tuesday night at a Conservative meeting held at Sheffield, Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, M.P., who is the accepted Conservative candidate for the Eccleshall Division of the borough, said the Government had fallen—the Government, he called them; but they had never been a Government. The last thing that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues had done had been to rule. They had never shown the smallest capacity for the higher acts of statesmanship. Their whole time and their whole efforts had been directed to the work of patching together by any and every conceivable device the discordant elements of which they were compounded. Their only policy had been a frantic effort to retain their places, no matter what the cost might be to the country they mismanaged, and to the Empire they were driving headlong to ruin. They did not even deserve the title of Ministers of the Crown. They had not served the Sovereign to whom they bore allegiance loyally and well. They had taken as their masters every fantastic injurious caprice. They had made themselves the agents of every childish and disintegrating crotchet, of every false sentiment and empty conceit that the wildest Radical imagination could invent; they had sacrificed the interests of England to every rival and foe whom they could discover in every quarter of the globe—(hear, hear)—and although they had been thus lavish of the rights and the honour of their country, they had proved nothing but a curse to the unfortunate peoples of alien race with whom they had been brought in contact. They had imperilled the safety of our Indian Empire, and imposed enormous burdens upon India and England. Nor had their blundering been even cheap and economical; for there was the maximum of disgrace with the maximum of expense. Now these friends of every country but their own had fallen in the unworthy attempt to tax the staple drink of the masses of the English people, while they left unburdened the expensive and luxurious commodities which they allow other countries to send freely into British territory, while British products are heavily taxed in return. By taxing French and Spanish wines and silks we should force those countries to give us the reciprocity which they now refuse. But it was not the Budget Bill that had really caused the fall of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues. It was the accumulated indignation and disgust of five years of incapacity and shame that had turned a majority of 100 into a minority of 12. It was the men who were responsible for Majuba and Kilmainham, for Sinkat and Khartoum, for the preposterous Suez bargains, and the Anglo-French Convention; the Ministers who invented the sham "Sacred Covenant," and who were responsible for the unpro-

voked and unpunished aggression of Penjdeh; the Ministers who had coaxed, and whined, and surrendered to France, who had by turns affronted and cringed to Germany, who had fawned in vain on the despot of St. Petersburg, who had been deceived and injured, and yet turned their cheeks afresh to the smiter—the men who had terrorised and coerced Ireland, who had bullied the weak and truckled to the strong, who had shed rivers of innocent blood, and all to no purpose; who had squandered millions without result, who had apologised, and retreated, and surrendered on every side. These were the Ministers whom the House of Commons condemned by its vote on Monday night. The nation would, he felt confident, endorse that verdict.

Mr. Caine, M.P., Civil Lord of the Admiralty, presided on Tuesday morning at a meeting held in Exeter Hall, to present a testimonial to Mr. Thomas Whittaker, ex-Mayor of Scarborough, who has just completed the fiftieth year of his public advocacy of the Temperance Movement. Referring to the defeat of the Government on the previous night, Mr. Caine said that Mr. Whittaker could scarcely, when he began his crusade, have expected to see a Government turned out of office on a temperance issue. It was a most encouraging sign of the times that the Government had refused, even at the risk of being turned out of office, to bow down before the agitation of a vested interest; that vested interest being the one which, more than any other, was casting a blight upon the body politic. For his own part he was sorry that the Government had given way in the least. There might be some sense of reason in the concessions made, seeing that they did not require all the money proposed to be raised, but they had stood firm to the principle that if a tax had to be levied it should not be laid upon articles of consumption which were harmless and beneficial, but upon those which more than anything else devastated and ruined the people. To have brought matters to this pass was, in his opinion, a triumph for the temperance reformation. Meanwhile, the temperance party received its defeat with equanimity. As a temperance reformer, it gave him little or no concern. The time was coming when they would appeal as they had never done before, to the whole British public, and he had no fear as to the result. The people were sound enough upon the temperance question, and he was quite satisfied that, when it came to be put to them whether they would support a party in the State willing conspicuously to identify itself with the cause of temperance, or with another party equally willing to identify itself with the liquor traffic, he had little doubt what the reply would be.

Speaking at a meeting at Metheringham on Tuesday, Mr. Chaplin, M.P., said he had come fresh from scenes in the House of Commons of the greatest interest—aye, even of the greatest excitement. That morning the House of Commons decided, by a majority of 12, to reject and to have nothing to do with the Budget proposals, and that, as the Prime Minister himself informed them, meant nothing more nor less than the overthrow and the downfall of the present Government. The hon. member proceeded to explain his reasons for voting against the Government proposals, and said that the money required might have been raised in a variety of ways—for instance, by imposing a tax on foreign wines, increasing the duty on tea, or, what he would have preferred, a countervailing duty (as it was termed) upon bounty-fed sugar. He should have preferred more than anything to have seen a re-imposition of the old shilling duty upon corn, which was only repealed a few years ago, which would have raised a revenue of £1,500,000, without affecting the price of bread. In his opinion Her Majesty's Government had met with their absolute deserts, and he was sure that whoever succeeded them, there could not be any Government in the future who would do more harm and mischief than had been done within the last four or five years. The hon. member then referred to the "reckless misstatement" made the other day by Mr. Chamberlain in the country to the effect that the Tories in the House of Commons had put up their confederates in the House of Lords to make the reception of medical relief a disqualification for the franchise, thus taking away with the one hand what they gave with the other. The inference which one would draw from this statement was that Mr. Chamberlain and the Government had all through opposed this proposition, whereas the fact was the Government opposed the amendment that medical relief should not be a disqualification on May 6 and May 12, and that on May 20 they agreed to the Lords' rejection of the clause. Although Sir Charles Dilke supported the rejection, and Mr. Chamberlain said nothing against it, the latter had the assurance to go into the country, and, in order to damage his political opponents, make statements about the House of Lords from which one could only believe he had been opposed to it; that was a specimen of the candour, fairness, and honesty of what he might call the typical Radical of the day. Mr. Chaplin's own opinion was that medical relief should not be a disqualification.

Speaking at a dinner at the City Liberal Club on Tuesday night, Sir Charles Dilke eulogised Mr. Gladstone as one in whom the country recognised the greatest power and the most illustrious genius who had ever served his country; and he declared that the result of the next general election under the reformed constituencies was likely to be a triumph of Liberal principles such as had never been seen before.

"Liberal opinions will sweep the English counties—the English Tory counties—from Devonshire to Cheshire, and carry an enormous number of Liberal members of a new stamp of Liberalism in an enormous wave of public opinion. That triumph of November next, of which I believe no one can rob us—that triumph will be, if Mr. Gladstone leads us—an even greater and more complete triumph than if we only fought with his great name and not under his actual leadership. But I believe that it will be a triumph even if he, by his own act, would cease to lead us, which we should all deplore. I do not believe he is likely to leave us. I believe he will lead us to that triumph, and if he does, it will not only be more complete and decisive as regards the future, but it will be a more meaning triumph, as, with Mr. Gladstone's leadership, every man in this country will know what are the principles to which we are being led."

The Tory party, Sir Charles Dilke went on to say, were altogether unable to appreciate the forces of English opinion in the present day. Their proposal to put a duty on tea showed this, and convinced him that the Tories were in a fool's paradise, and had no notion of English politics.

"I should like to see the Conservative party propose a Budget to which their speeches of last night appear necessarily to lead them unless they immediately proceed to perjure themselves by their own acts. Their speeches of last night would lead us to suppose that if they got the chance they would propose an enormously increased duty on tea without relaxing the other taxation proposed by Mr. Childers, but rather adding to it, because they told us that they both wished to put a duty on tea and to pay their way in the present year, and to raise by taxation the whole of the money required in the present year, and to continue to pay off debts. I should like to see them propose this Budget. Then, I confess I should not be sorry to see what the Conservative party would put forward as the principle, as the proper mode of dealing with the question of the Afghan boundary. I say I should not be altogether sorry to see their proposals, because I believe we have now arrived so near a complete settlement of that question that nothing which they could do would now endanger the peace of the world. But as they have used the most extraordinary and violent language with regard to the settlement we have made, I should be glad to hear if they are likely to propose any settlement different to that. But, above all, I should not be sorry to see, if the Conservative party were to get a chance, how they would deal with that great question of local government which is the first of the great reforms of the future, not only in reference to the metropolis, but local government in England, Scotland, and Ireland itself. Now, local government in England is a matter of the largest possible importance, and so it is in reference to Scotland; but when we come to Ireland it is something more even than that. It lies at the root and foundation of the whole future relations between Great Britain and Ireland, and in lying there it lies at the root of the future greatness of this country. I believe that it would be impossible for local government in England, Scotland, and in Ireland to be so dealt with as that the people of the so-called United Kingdom should be made that which they have been in name rather than in fact hitherto—that they should be the people of a real United Kingdom in the future. There is only one way in which such a result can be brought about—there is only one policy in connection with it—and that is by a bold treatment of this question of local government that we shall be able to reach that haven of secured peace in the future of which we have all dreamed, and for which we have lived. I am bound to say that I do not believe that the Tory party, or at any rate the Tory Democratic party, are capable of dealing in that way with the question; and I look to my own friends, and to my own party—to you, gentlemen—for that generous mode of dealing with the question in relation to the three kingdoms, which will, if successfully accomplished, hold together the people of the three kingdoms; which will bring together not only the English people in one great Liberal party, but will unite all in the future, and form a real United Kingdom."

Speaking at a Liberal meeting at Scarborough on Wednesday, the Marquis of Ripon said he fully recognised the problem which we had at this day to deal with in India, and which he knew for so many years to come must test the statesmanship of the rulers of India; but he was convinced it could only be solved by the honest and broad recognition of the real circumstances which exist in that country at the present time, and by a firm adherence to those great principles of equal justice which were laid down more than half a century ago by the great English statesmen of that day for the guidance of the rulers of India. The Government had been defeated by strange combinations, and by desertions stranger still. Why it was not for him to state, but the Government had necessarily and rightly resigned, and the foremost statesman of this generation had been temporarily removed from office. He believed the unworthy defection which produced the defeat would be answered ere long throughout the length and breadth of the land by the most triumphant vindication which an English Government could possibly desire. A vote of confidence in Mr. Gladstone and the Government was passed.

At a dinner held on Wednesday in a marquee erected on the grounds of the Dartford Conservative Club to celebrate the opening of the club, which, inaugurated in March last, has up to the present had a most encouraging career, Sir William Hart Dyke responded to the principal toast, "The Conservative Cause." He said that at the present moment the Conservative cause was nothing more nor less than the cause of England, and in the promotion of that cause the very best means of organisation they could employ was by clubs such as this. As a close observer of political matters he expressed his conviction that three-fourths of the defeat in 1880 was owing to the apathy of their friends and to a conviction that they were strong in the popularity and abilities of their great leader. Therefore it gave him great pleasure to perceive that in that neighbourhood, at all events, they were determined to organise in order to secure future success. They met in the midst of a crisis in political affairs. They were aware that the Government of All the Talents had at last come to signal grief, and it was an open secret that the Prime Minister had forwarded the resignation of himself and his colleagues to Her Majesty. In connection with this matter he would observe that this defeat had been received, not only by members of the Government themselves, but by members of the party, with singular rejoicing. This meant that this Government, after five years of office, had reduced the Empire to such a state of chaos and confusion that it was a matter of jubilation to them to get rid of the responsibilities which they had on their shoulders. Turning to the question of Egypt, he remarked that it would be a long while before England forgot the disgraceful proceedings of our Government in that country; whilst as to Russia, he contended that all our difficulties had arisen from the determination of the Liberal party to undo the policy of Lord Beaconsfield, and the consequence was that we should be compelled to establish a line of forts for the protection of India, at a cost of millions a year to that country. Russia was now practically at the gates of Herat, and it would be impossible in the future to maintain Afghanistan as a buffer between India and the forces of the Czar. Referring to his candidature for the Dartford Division of the county, Sir William, in conclusion, urged the importance of personal effort and thorough organisation as the chief means by which a Conservative victory could be secured at the next election.

People are getting ready for the general election with commendable alacrity. Beyond the Tweed of course they are expecting Mr. Gladstone on one of his travelling tours. The railway companies are thinking about structural alterations in their rolling-stock so as to make them more suitable for those who wish to listen to speeches while the train is in motion. The difficulty is about the reporters; but it is thought they might be accommodated with seats on the roof and listen through the ventilating apertures. At Forfar they were a little too forward in their preparations. "A gang of Radicals"—to parody the language of their own literary guides—were at the station ready to demonstrate to Mr. Gladstone; but the Prime Minister didn't come, and the demonstrators had to go home. For another sign of the times we notice that an enterprising professor advertises lessons in "composition and delivery" for candidates. Doubtless some of Sir Charles Dilke's Liberals of "of the new stamp of Liberalism" will want his instruction. "It aint the elocution that bothers me so much as the pronounciation," was the remark recently made by a candidate of the very newest midland "stamp." The House of Commons still has some faint prejudices on the subject.

Sir Sydney Waterlow, speaking at a Liberal meeting at Sittingbourne on Thursday evening, proposed a resolution declaring unabated confidence in Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues, and assuring them of the unfaltering adherence of the Kent Liberals at the present critical juncture of affairs. Sir Sydney affirmed that the vote by which the Government was defeated was a chance vote, snapped by the Conservative party. He was attending a Liberal meeting in Kent, and became so engrossed in the proceedings that he lost his train to London, and was unable to record his vote for the Government. He was sure there was no suspicion on the Liberal side that any vote would be taken likely to imperil the Government. He hoped the difficulty would be arranged so as to finish the necessary legislation, and have a General Election immediately. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Speaking at a Conservative meeting at Sevenoaks on Thursday night, Mr. C. H. Mills, M.P., said: Humiliation had followed the policy which had been adopted by Her Majesty's Government throughout the globe. From almost every nation in Europe they had received a rebuff, and not only from foreign nations, but even from our own dependencies. The three principal blessings which were promised them were peace, prosperity and, retrenchment. There was a Vote of Credit for eleven millions for warlike preparations against Russia, with whom they were on the verge of rupture; and it was only by humiliating concession that it was temporarily stayed. Stagnation and depression in agriculture and trade were common throughout the country. With regard to retrenchment there was an expenditure of a hundred millions, an income-tax of eightpence in the pound, and a proposed heavy addition to the duties on spirits and beer, which, fortunately, however, had not been passed. In every respect the condition of affairs since they met three years ago had considerably deteriorated. The Government had been defeated upon the Budget, and if the leaders of the Conservative party were asked to take office they would do so. He believed if the whole facts were clearly placed before the new electors they would unhesitatingly record their verdict adversely to the Liberal party, who had not contributed to the happiness of the people. Lord Lewisham, M.P., said the Government had recently had evidence that they were unworthy of the confidence of their own supporters. He characterised the list of Liberal abstentions from the division as pitiable literature. The Conservative party were few in numbers, but they were present at important divisions. They needed to be very careful about the misrepresentation that was continually made by their opponents. He believed that the House of Lords were in a stronger, better, and more certain position than had been the case for years past. He denied that the Conservative party were a war party. A resolution to the effect that the failure of Her Majesty's Government to promote useful legislation for the people, and their timid and incapable foreign policy, alike ruinous to our interests abroad and our trade at home, had rendered them unworthy of the confidence of the country, was adopted.

Mr. James Lowther on Thursday addressed a large meeting of electors at Theddlethorpe, in the Louth Division of Lincolnshire, and after stating that he would accept the invitation given to him a short time ago to contest the division at the next election, he alluded at length to the political situation. He said they were met together under somewhat peculiar circumstances. They had no doubt realised from the ordinary channels of information that they were in the midst of what was called a political crisis. They might have wondered why, in the name of fortune, they should be landed in a political crisis under conditions which now prevailed. He had had twenty years' experience of political life, and he would say that he never knew an occasion when a political crisis was more wantonly precipitated than by Her Majesty's Government. If he might be permitted to use a sporting analogy, he would say that the defeat sustained by the Government the other night was what he would call a "regular ramp"—that was to say, the Government could have won if they had liked. If they had taken those ordinary and recognised precautions which were so well known for securing the attendance of their followers in the division they could have avoided defeat. If it had been pointed out to the Prime Minister by those skilful tacticians who for the last five years had landed a mechanical majority night after night in the lobby, and if it had been pointed out to him that it was doubtful whether he would have such a full attendance of his supporters, it would only be in accordance with the recognised practice to have had the debate adjourned, and then have given full notice to all concerned that their attendance was desired for the purpose of avoiding the defeat of the Government of their choice. In the first place, no intimation was given that the Government would recognise defeat upon a fiscal question, which was usually held aloof from the mere ordinary ties of party. While travelling in the train that day he had seen letter after letter signed as having been received from staunch supporters of Mr. Gladstone, saying they had no idea that any great and important crisis was at hand or they would have been present. Having regard to all these circumstances, he thought he was justified in saying that Her Majesty's Government had neglected the ordinary precautions which should have been observed in order to avoid defeat. They had wilfully run the risk of defeat by allowing it to come upon them without having taken reasonable precautions to prevent it. Under such circumstances it was the height of coolness for Radical newspapers to turn round to the Conservative party, and say they were in duty bound to rush in and take upon themselves the responsibilities of office under the anomalous state of affairs at the present moment. He held the doctrine that no political leader could be reasonably called upon against his wish to assume the reins of office, unless he could either command a majority in the existing House of Commons or advise the Sovereign to dissolve Parliament in order to enable the feeling of the country to be tested. No Conservative politician could get either of these things now. Just now a dissolution of Parliament was entirely out of the question, and as to whether a Conservative Ministry could confidently rely upon the support of the present Parliament, he thought the history of the last five years would answer that question. Even if there were this possibility, he thought that the present Parliament, like the great mass of the people of this country, was thoroughly and heartily sick of the mismanagement and incompetence of Mr. Gladstone's Government, and were determined to do away with the most incapable administration which had ever maladministered the affairs of any country. He maintained that the Conservative party was perfectly free to decide whether or not it would accept office at the present time. He did not hesitate to say that a very great mistake would be made by the Conservative party if they accepted the shadow of office without the reality of power under the existing condition of affairs. He held that for any Government the present was a very unsatisfactory and invidious position to be placed in. Of course, it was quite possible that circumstances might arise which might compel a consideration of the opinions to which he had given utterance, though he sincerely trusted that the Conservatives would not be led into the trap so deliberately laid for them. He trusted they would remain where they were until it was within the power of the constituencies to return to the House of Commons those who would afford legitimate support to a Constitutional Government in this country.

Lord Randolph Churchill visited Cambridge on Saturday to attend the annual dinner of the University Carlton Club, of which he is the president. In the afternoon he attended a meeting held at the Corn Exchange, to protest against the proposed increase in the beer and spirit duties. He declared the change in the Budget to be one for the worse, increasing its injustice. The Tory party had protested against it, and on Monday hoped to defeat the Budget, forcing the Chancellor of the Exchequer to produce another. A determined attack was made upon the landed interest by the succession duties, and by the tax on beer, which was a tax on barley. He protested against the view that we should abandon beer for the foul and filthy compounds called Spanish wines. This was not the first time foreign wines had been forced down their throats. The country should consider whether the moment had not arrived for the imposition of a tax on foreign manufactures, and the advisability of a duty on foreign corn might also be entertained. They had to balance the inconvenience of duties on foreign imports against the danger of letting the land go out of tillage, and of labour being driven out of the country. It had been proved in France that an increase in the duty on corn had not raised the price by even the fraction of a farthing. Replying to the toast of the University Carlton Club at the dinner in the evening, Lord Randolph, having spoken of the encouragement which he had derived from a deputation from the club which came to express sympathy with him at a time when he was engaged "in something of the nature of a struggle with men of great position, responsibility, and experience as to the form which modern Conservative organisation ought to take," remarked that the position of the Government was so intensely wretched that they had passed beyond the scope of blame, and not even their worst enemy could feel for them anything but intense pity. He regarded them with the same feeling of compassion that he would have for men condemned to death. Having referred to the engrossing character of the politician's business, and the multiplicity of the questions which demanded attention, he said that the ancient institutions which went to make up our Government were in their nature conservative. But the old foundation had now been changed, and the new one was a great seething and swaying mass of five millions of electors, who had it in their power, if they should so please, by a mere heave of the shoulders, to sweep away entirely those ancient institutions, to put anything they liked in their place, and to profoundly alter, and perhaps for a time almost ruin, the interests of the 300,000,000 human beings committed to their charge. The question as to how far the new electors would be influenced by passion and caprice was a problem upon which history threw no light whatever. Speaking of the thoughtlessness of modern politicians, he remarked that the Radical professor was at the best but a poor creature, and at the worst one of infinite contemptibility. From this generalisation, however, he excluded Professor Fawcett and Sir William Harcourt. The Radical party was pre-eminently the thoughtless party. In conclusion he called on the members of such clubs to counteract the poisonous stuff spread abroad by their opponents.

Lord Carnarvon, addressing a public meeting on Monday night at Whitway, within a short distance of his seat, Highclere Castle, said that since addressing the meeting recently held at Woodhay, when he expressed his willingness to dispose of land to any labourer desirous of possessing it, he had received an application for half an acre at Woodhay, and he could only say that he should be delighted to accede to the

request, and let the applicant half an acre of land at a fair agricultural value, neither more nor less, and would so arrange that the legal expenses of the transfer should be as trifling as possible. He would also endeavour to meet the wishes of any other persons who might feel anxious to become the possessors of similar plots of land in the parish on the same conditions. His Lordship then referred to some of the Radical misrepresentations, and particularly denied the accuracy of the assertion that they had given the people a cheap loaf, and that the Conservatives would substitute for it a dear loaf. So far as he knew the opinions of his political friends, he could say there was nothing more improbable, and there was nothing they would be more ashamed of doing, than to make the loaf dearer. Speaking of the conduct of the Government, Lord Carnarvon said that in his opinion the present Government was the worst this country had ever had for the last 100 or 150 years. Out of the 100 things he could urge against them, he would mention but two—first, that at home the present was one of the most extravagant Governments there had ever been, having spent on an average eighty-seven millions per annum, as against seventy-eight millions spent by the Conservatives; and, secondly, that as regards matters abroad the present Government had been the most unlucky and most incompetent Government that had ever existed. There had been nothing the Government had tried to do abroad in which they had not failed. They had gone into more wars than had ever taken place in the time of their predecessors without achieving any good or satisfactory results; but, on the other hand, we were despised and hated, and sneered at in every foreign newspaper.

Mr. GIBSON, M.P., speaking at the Merchant Taylors' Hall on Thursday night, dwelt upon the Ministerial crisis. He believed the Conservatives would be prepared to discharge any duty they might be called upon to undertake, and should their position change from that of an Opposition to that of a Government, he claimed that they had a right to demand fair play and a fair trial.

The iniquitous Wife's Sister Bill was to have been brought before the House of Commons on Wednesday and the House of Lords on Thursday, but owing to the political crisis and the adjournment of both Houses from Tuesday until Friday the second reading is necessarily put off for the while. During the past week a large number of petitions have been presented in the Upper House; it is scarcely necessary to urge upon Churchmen and all who are opposed to this measure for relaxing the present marriage laws to work their hardest in opposition to it. Lord Dalhousie, to whose charge the Bill has been placed, has already signified his intention, when the House reassembles, to fix another date for the measure.

GEOGRAPHY AT A DISCOUNT.

The report of Mr. J. Scott Keltie, the inspector of the Royal Geographical Society, on the state of geographical education in England is one, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, that should cause much searching of heart amongst those responsible for all classes of education. Cobden in one of his speeches ridiculed the system which taught a man all about the geography of Herodotus, but left him ignorant of the situation of Chicago, and it does not appear that we have advanced much in this respect since Cobden's days. If there is a country in the world where geography should be taught and known, we expect our own to be that country. Our possessions and stations are scattered all over the globe, our interests lie everywhere; there are but few families in England which have no relatives in distant parts of the earth; no year passes in which our travellers do not add a new name to the long roll of those who have performed achievements in geography worthy of being remembered; our geographical literature increases year by year, even week by week, and yet as a people we are profoundly ignorant of geography. It is not taught in our universities, hardly in our public schools, the very elements of success in geographical instruction (says Mr. Keltie) are wanting. The Royal Geographical Society has done its best in various directions to remedy this state of things, with but scant success. Why is this? Mr. Keltie's report supplies us with an answer. Geography does not "pay" in examinations; it is not recognised in the universities by either a professorship or readership; it finds no real place in any of their examinations; while in the public services it is at a discount, and is left mainly to examiners. Our officials and people learn, or do not learn, geography in that haphazard, slipshod style so characteristic of our public life and institutions. Mr. Keltie's report is necessarily full of details—details of what we are in respect of geographical education, what we should be, and what other countries have done in this field. He visited about eighty educational institutions in Great Britain, and about fifty on the Continent, and this is what he says of geographical education in England and on the Continent.

In universities it is *nil*. In public schools very nearly *nil*, as the society's examinations for their medals have proved. And when it is attempted, it is given to the most incompetent master, and he has a wretched set of maps. It is required for the public services, and taught, I do not know how, by crammers. "The only places where geography is systematically taught in England are the training colleges, male and female, and the national board schools; with now and for the last few years some few good high and middle-class schools. In the matter of geography the universities at present exercise no influence except through their local examinations, and these scarcely touch the higher schools. Teachers and examiners both stand in need of enlightenment, and unless the Royal Geographical Society takes some step, nothing is likely to be done. On the Continent geography has a serious place in education of all grades, from the primary school to the university. The Government of every country I have visited insists that it should be so. Geographical specialists complain that it has not in the highest schools the time allotted to it which it ought to have, and that there is a lack of properly trained teachers. The time, in my opinion, could not be much more than it is at present, and if the carefully arranged programmes are thoroughly carried out by competent men, boys ought to leave the higher Continental schools with a very solid knowledge of geography indeed. As to teachers, well-trained men—men who have taken the course and passed the examination for the *Facultas Docendi* in geography—are becoming commoner every year under the influence of the universities. In short, we find generally present in the Continental systems of geographical instruction all the elements of development and success."

As to the cause of the ignorance of geography in England, he says:—

"On the whole I am bound to admit that the unsatisfactory position allotted to geography in our public schools is not so much the fault of the teachers as of the conditions upon which they are compelled to regulate their programmes and their methods. A perusal of the statements in which many head masters have favoured me with their views on the geographical situation will give the conviction that the present position of geography in our public schools is almost entirely due to the exigencies of the examinations. Geography, we are told in so many words, does not 'pay.' It is not recognised at the universities by either professorship or readership; it does not find a real place in any of their examinations, while in the army and navy examinations it is at a discount, and such geography as is given is of a very partial character, and is left mainly to crammers. The head master of one of our oldest public schools told me he deliberately warns his pupils to keep their eyes steadily fixed upon the examinations they have in view, and the careers for which they are destined, and to neglect every subject, including geography, which in that view will not pay. 'The subject,' a head master writes, 'will never be taught as a special subject at English schools till it is better recognised at the universities.' This may be regarded as pretty fully summing up the whole matter. There is no encouragement to give the subject a prominent place in the school curriculum; no provision, except at elementary normal schools, for the training of teachers in the facts and principles of the subject, and in the best methods of teaching it; no inducement to publishers to produce maps, globes, pictures, reliefs, and other apparatus of the quality and in the variety to be found on the Continent; while our ordinary textbooks are, as a rule, unskilful compilations by men who have no special knowledge of their subject. In short, in the present condition of things it is thought that geography, like English, can be taught by anybody.

"In the few cases where I find masters anxious to give the subject its proper place, it is evident that they work under considerable discouragement, and often with want of knowledge. I have found individual masters here and there who do their best to elevate the subject above the wretched position it has hitherto occupied. I find them resorting to all sorts of contrivances for lack of good apparatus—making their own maps, or sending to the Continent for good maps in dissatisfaction with those procurable in this country. In the very rare cases in which the headmaster of a school has a full appreciation of the importance of the subject, it is generally fairly taught, as far as other and more payable subjects permit. But all this goes to prove that the subject has no recognised place in our great public schools; either it is regarded as too elementary, too trivial, a thing suited only for a dame's school, or it is deliberately snubbed in favour of the subjects that 'pay.' One of the best and most successful teachers of geography in this country assured me that the headmaster (a purely classical man) and the assistant masters bring the strongest pressure to bear on the boys to give up geography entirely; and he fears they will succeed.

"As for our appliances for teaching geography and our methods, the former are bad and there is no method," says the inspector.

"Turning to the Continent, a different condition of things presents itself, at least in those countries concerning which I have obtained information—Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, Sweden, and Norway, and even Spain. In all these countries education of all grades is more or less under the direction of the State. For the different classes of schools, the State prescribes with more or less minuteness the character of the education to be given, the subjects to be taught, and the general programme for each subject. In all these official regulations geography has a distinct place. The field to be covered is prescribed, the aim being that the pupil shall have a complete course of geography, the field varying in extent with the grade of the school. In the higher grade schools, Gymnasia and Realschulen in Germany, Lycées in France, Athenées in Belgium, schools which may be held to correspond with our great public schools, geography must be taught for, on an average, two hours a week in the lower, and from one to two in the higher school, up to at least the second highest class. As the curriculum in these schools lasts from six to nine years, and as the programme is carefully devised so as to include all sections of geography, general and special, mathematical, physical and political, and to embrace all the parts of the earth, there is some security that a pupil who works fairly will come out of the school with a knowledge of geography at least equal to that set in the Further Examination for Candidates for Sandhurst, if he is not indeed up to the standard demanded for the society's medals. Of course, in some of these schools, especially of the Gymnasium class, languages still hold the most prominent place, and next to them mathematics; but not even the most zealous advocate of geography would seek to place the subject in a position of equality as to time with such subjects in the higher schools for general education. It has the same treatment as history, as natural science, as physics and chemistry; indeed, these latter are taught only in the highest classes in Germany. There is, then, the first striking fact with regard to the subject on the Continent that it is officially recognised by the State as of equal value with the subjects referred to, and is prescribed as compulsory in every class of school, and throughout nearly the whole curriculum of the highest schools. Not physical geography alone is thus dealt with; there is no separation of the subject into its parts as in England; the subject is treated as one inseparable whole, all the parts of which dovetail into each other.'

Germany, as might be expected—"solid, deep-thinking Germany," as Carlyle styled it—is the model of all the others. The thoroughness with which the subject is taught there in every educational institution throughout the country is described at much length by Mr. Keltie. It will be sufficient to quote the section relating to the universities:—

"Turning to the position of the subject in German Universities, the fact is that, until twelve years ago, almost the only Chair of Geography was that o Berlin, originally held by Ritter. Now there are twelve professorships of geography, and a new one (at Münster) is to be established this year, while it is intended to establish a professorship of physiography at Berlin. Professors of geography are in all respects on a footing of perfect equality with other professors, and may aspire to the same honorary offices, such as dean and rector. Their official salaries are essentially the same, generally about £400 per annum, with additions in proportion to the number of students. It is not compulsory on any class of students to take up geography, but for certain purposes students require to pass an examination in geography, and as a matter of fact we find the regular lectures on this subject attended by numbers varying from twenty to eighty. These regular lectures may be three or four a week, with others that are open to the general public. For students making a special study of the subject, and who wish to qualify themselves for teachers, there are additional classes, or Ubungen, generally in the evening, twice a week."

Similarly with regard to our establishments for military education. Chief Justice Daly, of New York, spoke of the Franco-German war as "fought as much by maps as by weapons. It teaches us," he added, "that if the fate of a nation may depend on a battle, a battle may depend on a knowledge of geography." Referring to military geography, Mr. Keltie writes: "I find that in none of the schools for the education of our military and naval officers does geography find a place of any importance, exhibiting a marked contrast in this respect to most of the corresponding institutes on the Continent. In the French Superior School of War, corresponding to our Staff College, as well as at St. Cyr, geography is the most important subject of education, as will be seen later on. In our Staff College, frontier geography and military surveying are most effectively taught. But there is no guarantee that our military and naval officers enter on their career with more than the most elementary knowledge of general geography. In Germany, Austria, and elsewhere geography forms an important part of an officer's education."

The steps which should be taken to put geographical education on a footing more worthy of our position as a nation will suggest themselves from what has been here stated. The subject should be made to "pay." Our universities and examining boards should put it on their list of subjects and provide for its teaching. How this is to done is a question for them to decide, and one on which they will naturally expect the assistance of the Royal Geographical Society. One of the first questions to be settled, as Mr. Keltie suggests, is the precise extent of the science of geography.

A STATISTICAL INQUIRY INTO HEROINES.

During the twelve months ending the 31st of March, 1885, the staircase has only six times concealed the secret passage for which it was at one time so famous. With these exceptions, the staircase has invariably been used for its proper purpose where it has been introduced, at all: namely, for the introduction of the heroine to the hero. Sometimes she topples on the stair; more frequently she stumbles; but the glance in passing is more frequent still. On 114 occasions her hair, having escaped from its ribbons, hung in luxuriant confusion about her neck and shoulders; and 201 times he has thought that he never saw her look so beautiful. What at these times he most desires to kiss is the hem of her garment. She allows him to press his lips to her mouth, eyes, and ears; but from his solitary confessions you gather that it is the hem he is really after, did she but know it.

The year that has just closed has wedded 274 heroines to the men of their choice, thirty-nine have married the wrong man, and either fifty-one or sixty-one have died. The grass has grown over four of these; in the remaining cases it has grown green. The others have ended miscellaneously. As compared with past years the rate of mortality is low. When, some years ago, I first entered upon these inquiries, consumption was very prevalent in novels, and the hectic flush usually appeared as early as the third chapter. But although there is some heart-disease, our heroines are improving in health, and they marry earlier now. It is a slack week that does not make wives of half a dozen heroines in the first sixty pages, and in one case in five the lady starts as a wife and a heroine simultaneously. In forty-seven cases mothers have been tried with very good results. They have had 112 children between them, ranging in age from one calendar month to eight years, and he has rescued seventy-one of these from a watery grave. Twelve of the original husbands of these heroines have perished in a railway accident; three have been discovered to be bigamists; seven have found a note on the dressing-room table that explained everything; and the remaining twenty-five are really the men she loves, though she did not know it at the time. These heroines promise well for the coming season. Widows are coming in again.

Against 372 blondes there have been 190 brunettes—an unusually large number. While the health average is distinctly higher than in former years, fragility and delicacy continue marked. Broad low brows are in greater favour, and it is a remarkable circumstance that in seven cases out of ten the mouth is perhaps a little too large. In fact, of these 562 ladies as many as 437 have not been beautiful in the strict meaning of the term. But, with a very few inconsiderable exceptions, they had something irresistible about them: and this something is usually explained by pert little noses turned up the thousandth part of an inch. A good nose is thus no longer what it was. The something has also a close connection with dimples, and in the rare cases in which these are neither maddening nor bewitching they intoxicate. Seven hundred and ninety-two ears have been shell-like, the remainder rosy. There have been over a thousand almond-shaped eyes, of which 612 have had a dreamy look and eighty-six have flashed fire; while the latter were flashing eighty-four heroines drew themselves up. It is remarkable how these statistics fluctuate. In 1878 the shell-like ear, which the year before had stood as high as 608, fell to 322, and rose again in 1880 to 714. The ripe red lip remains stationary; but almond eyes are extremely variable. I have known them a drug.

Rarely has the heroine been created who, being herself tall and slender, had neither a sister or a friend who is small and plump. Where, however, the heroine inclines to *embonpoint*, as she has done eighty-three times this season, the foil of course has to suffer, losing as much flesh as the other gains. It does not seem probable that the plump heroine will ever drive her more slender rival from the field; but she is doing well at balls, and the best novelists have never lost faith in her. With Dickens she was a decided favourite; she had a great time in the Waverley Novels, and is still much admired in the Emerald Isle. To give satisfaction at a ball is more than might be hastily supposed; for the heroines of the past season have each spent, on an average, five-eighths of a volume at them. She may look pale under the lurid glare of the lamps, or wear but a simple dress of white; she may even risk a rival as beautiful as herself; but there is one thing she cannot do without. She *must* have finely rounded arms. Four hundred and odd times this year she and he have been the admiration of the ballroom, and it has struck 361 assemblages on seeing them together that they are made for each other. Fifty-six times she has fainted at the ball in her lover's arms; seventy-nine times he has turned haughtily on his heel (this requires practice) and left her; 111 times he has gone with her into the conservatory to propose, 102 of these declarations being observed by a dark figure against the window; and in all but seven cases he has omitted to say that if his wife knew she might not like it. If you have any difficulty in fixing on the hero, he is always distinguished by his habit of holding the heroine's hand a moment longer than is absolutely necessary.

He has smoked beneath her window 121 times, and 114 shadows have passed upon the blind. In every case it has been she. A hundred and seven times it has been a warm night, and as she opened the window and gazed into the darkness her beautiful figure was displayed to the best advantage. He thought she was indeed an ethereal creature. She has sighed ninety-four times, and asked herself what this could be. Twice out of every three times she has wondered if it was love, thrilling at the question. Seventy-three times he has seen the folly, the madness, of his passion, and has called at her father's house to bid them farewell. Half an hour has almost invariably been the time that is to elapse before he starts for India; and when he turned his face in the direction of our great dependency she called him by his Christian name forty-two times, placed her hand upon her heart sixty-one times, and flung herself with a wild cry at his bosom nineteen times. In 75 cases, if he had turned round when he reached the door this novel need never have been written. Fourteen times he has hesitated on the threshold with his hand on the door, but nothing has come of it.

He has gathered her up in his arms 117 times (here the plump ones are at a disadvantage), folded her against his breast 97 times, drawn her to him 74 times, taken her head between his hands 102 times, tightened his hold of her little waist 89 times, strained her to his heart 90 times, and plucked one burning kiss from her lips (ah, how it burned into her soul!), before parting with her for ever 101 times. In the great majority of cases, when they next meet he is cold and formal, and she flings herself upon her bed and asks what it means. She cannot make it out at all; but the reader generally can. Either he had been persuaded by his married sister to engage himself to another when he did not know what love was, or he has a wife in foreign parts. The poorest creature of a hero I have encountered this year was one who was struggling with a prior attachment. I had got so thoroughly into the groove that led to the other girl, that I rather admired his impudence and read on to see how he was exposed. He never was exposed. It was ambition, and there was no other woman.

Cousins are working well together. Forty-seven have liked each other from the first, about a score have drifted apart, but others have come to an understanding. Some seventy times the old uncle (or, when there is a thirst for novelty, the old aunt) leaves his money between them on condition that they marry, the one who refuses losing his or her share in the legacy. These elderly relatives are amazingly eccentric sometimes, but they have always this in common. It is the touch of Nature that makes uncles and aunts akin. These are but the gleanings of my notebook, which is furnished with much else that, to me at least, is very curious and interesting.—*St. James's Gazette.*

The anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday afternoon in the hall of the University of London, Burlington-gardens, under the presidency of Lord Aberdare. The Royal medals and grants for the encouragement of geographical science and discovery were presented—the founders' medal to Mr. Joseph Thomson, in recognition of the success of the two expeditions into East Central Africa with which he was charged by the society; the patron's medal to Mr. H. E. O'Neill, for his thirteen journeys of exploration along the coast and in the interior of Mozambique; the Murchison grant for 1885 to the Pundit Krishna, for his four explorations made while attached to the survey of India; the Back grant in 1885 to Mr. W. O. Hodgkinson, for his three great journeys of exploration in Australia; the Cuthbert Peek grant for 1885 to Mr. J. T. Last, for his ethnological researches in the Southern Masai, Nguru, and neighbouring countries during his long residence at Mamboia, in East Central Africa. The chairman then delivered his annual address.

Painted windows as a memorial of departed worth and gallantry have an interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor has at all times pleasure in showing his works in progress, both for church and hall, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates sent. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London, W.

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GIRLS.

	Votes.		Votes.
Nugent, Mary Ann ..	837	King, Grace M.	827
Rogers, Jessica J. E. ..	833	Dearle, E. A.	816
Gill, Kathleen L. ..	829	Tindall, Jannette ..	801
Kitto, Mary A.	828	Baker, Margerite ..	793

BOYS.

Young, D.	750	Austin, W. H. H. ..	626
Greaves, L. O.	693	Hardy, C. N. M. ..	624
Harden, M. de H. ..	654	Sheppard, H. J. ..	604
Tattersha l, M. W. ..	648	Tovey, W. J.	559
Jenkins, J. T. H. ..	630	Tapell, A. J.	553
Barker, Percy W. K. ..	627	Nicolson, J. de L. J. ..	480

Thanks were voted to the Scrutineers and Chairman.
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JOHN BULL.

LONDON, JUNE 13.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The overthrow of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Administration has at last been accomplished, and the ignominious end has come of the ignoble career of the most disreputable of modern Ministries. There is a sensible feeling of relief amongst honest and patriotic Englishmen that at length there is the hope of an English Government that will command respect abroad and will not be regarded with contempt at home. It is the irony of fortune that the Ministers who obtained from their obsequious supporters in the House of Commons votes condoning the dishonour and disasters for which they were responsible in South Africa, in Egypt, and in the Soudan should find themselves deserted and defeated on a question of the taxation of beer and spirits. There is no doubt, however, that the defeat was a welcome one to the Ministers themselves, and it is clear that they took no vigorous steps to avert it. The Cabinet was notoriously split up into conflicting parties on the grave question of Irish policy, and no means had been discovered of reconciling their differences of opinion. It was clearly far better for the Government to go out of office on account of a hostile Parliamentary vote rather than in consequence of internal dissensions. The open manifestation of the absolute want of unity that prevails amongst the leaders of the Radical party has at least been avoided, and the advantage of this in view of the approaching General Election is obvious. There are, too, clear tactical advantages for the Radical party in being out of office for some few months previous to a dissolution. Mr. GLADSTONE has shown to what use the position of "greater "freedom and less responsibility" can be turned, and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and Sir CHARLES DILKE are apt pupils of the great demagogue under whom they have served, and may be trusted not to neglect the example that he has set. It is amusing to remark the variety of excuses which the Radical members who were absent from the division on Monday night have preferred in order to justify themselves to the indignant section of their constituents. It may be safely assumed that if any jealous anxiety to maintain the Government in office had existed, a large number of the absentees would have found it consistent with their indispositions and their engagements to be present, and to record their votes. And it is equally certain that if Ministers had been keen to avoid defeat and the consequent necessity of resignation, they would have taken every means to secure a majority in their favour. The simple explanation of the Ministerial defeat of Monday is that to the Ministers it came as a welcome relief to their many embarrassments, whilst to a vast number of their supporters it had become a matter of absolute indifference whether Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues contrived to hold office or not. No question could, of course, arise as to the duty of the Conservative leaders at the present junctreu. Their regard for party advantage would lead them to refuse to take office or attempt the work of government with a discredited and hostile House of Commons that it is impossible to get rid of by an immediate appeal to the constituencies. But the occasion is one when partisan calculations must yield to the higher considerations of patriotism. Lord SALISBURY has been summoned by the QUEEN, and there is little doubt that in the end Lord SALISBURY will be entrusted with the duty of forming a new Administration. It is clear that Lord SALISBURY alone would be the inspiring influence of a Tory Cabinet, and it is essential that he should be the head of the new Ministry in name as well as in fact. The proposal that Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE should be Prime Minister meets with no support amongst the Tory party in the country. It is possible to carry respect for amiable incompetence too far. When a Tory Government is formed it will at once be confronted with the difficulty with regard to the renewal of the Crimes Act. It will be necessary that securities should be obtained from the leaders of the moderate Liberals for their loyal co-operation in securing the legislation essential for the maintenance of the authority of law in Ireland. In that case the Continuance Act might be carried out, notwithstanding the opposition of Sir CHARLES DILKE, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, and Mr. PARNELL. It would then simply remain to introduce a new Budget, to take the necessary votes in Supply, and wind up as quickly as possible the absolutely necessary business of the Session.

The exultation that has been generally manifested at the overthrow of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Administration is only the natural expression of the loathing and contempt that during five years of disaster and dishonour they have contrived to accumulate. The sinister political career of the PRIME MINISTER thus comes to an end amidst discredit and failure. There is happily every reason to hope that, whatever happens, England will not again be brought under the ignominious rule of Mr. GLADSTONE. He may still appear on the platform as a political agitator, but there is good reason to hold that the popular belief is well founded, and that he will never again hold office as Minister of the QUEEN. During the long period of his political life it is impossible to point to any useful service that he has rendered his country. He has destroyed the Irish Church, he has plundered the Irish landlords, and he has paved the way for Irish independence. He has ruined the *prestige* of the Empire, he has degraded the country abroad, he has sacrificed both its honour and its interests to foreign Powers, and he leaves England embarrassed and isolated, and confronted with the hostility of every important Continental State. He has earned the hatred of the Colonies, and South Africa and Australia have reason enough for reviling the Colonial policy that his Government has pursued. He has given a vast impulse to the forces of Revolution and Socialism at home, and he leaves the country a prey to commercial depression and agricultural ruin. Majuba Hill, Kilmainham, Alexandria, Khartoum, and Penjdeh recall the five years of shame and slaughter that we owe to Mr. GLADSTONE'S tenure of office. There is ample cause for enthusiastic rejoicing at home, in the Colonies, and in India, in the hope that England has seen the last of Mr. GLADSTONE as a Minister of the Crown.

There are already indications of the solid advantages that would accrue to the Empire from the accession to the conduct of affairs of a Tory Government. Public opinion at Berlin and Vienna already anticipates that the first result would be the renewal of friendly relations between Great Britain and the German and Austrian Governments. It is also evident that both at Paris and St. Petersburg the necessity of modifying the policy of hostility to British interests that was only pursued from a recognition of the "consistent "cowardice" of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Cabinet has been promptly perceived. The task that devolves upon Lord SALISBURY is vastly complicated by the engagements to which the Radical Government has committed the country. But in regard to the settlement of the Afghan frontier, of the questions pending at the Conferences of Paris and Rome in respect to the Suez Canal and quarantine, and with regard to the future of Egypt, the English people will have the confidence and the certainty that British interests will be upheld by Lord SALISBURY, instead of being flippantly abandoned after the fashion of Lord GRANVILLE. The blunders of the past are to too great an extent irrevocable, but Lord SALISBURY will possibly yet be in time to secure a settlement with Russia not simply based upon a principle of tame surrender, and to prevent the utter abandonment of British supremacy in Egypt, which all evidences serve to show is in course of accomplishment. These results alone will serve to illustrate the Tory tenure of office even if it should only last until a General Election; and when a Dissolution comes there is every prospect that the Tory party will be able to point to the signal successes of the Tory Government as affording fresh claims to the confidence of the constituencies.

THE CRISIS.

It is now certain, from the announcements made in both Houses of Parliament last night, that the next few days will see the establishment of a Conservative Government in office. On Tuesday Mr. GLADSTONE'S Cabinet submitted their resignations to the QUEEN, their communication reaching Balmoral on Wednesday afternoon. HER MAJESTY was pleased to accept the resignations of her Ministers on Thursday, and on the same day summoned the Marquis of SALISBURY to Balmoral. His Lordship started for Scotland on Thursday night, and reached Balmoral yesterday afternoon. At the interview which Lord SALISBURY had with the QUEEN yesterday evening at Balmoral, the Tory Leader will have humbly assured HER MAJESTY of his readiness to obey her commands to form an Administration, now that it is clear that the Radical Ministry finally refuses to retain office. HER MAJESTY must have been well aware that the defeat of last Tuesday morning furnished no sufficient reason why her Ministers should seek to abandon the trusts she had confided to them, and that the Conservative party could only undertake the responsibilities of office after a distinct and final declaration by the Government of their inability to carry on the affairs of the Empire. In requiring from her Ministers, as she is understood to have done, a more adequate explanation of their motives for resigning than that which was furnished by the result of Tuesday's Division, the QUEEN faithfully reflected the opinion of her subjects. The country is delighted to get rid of Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues; but that is no reason for admitting the validity of their pretext for scuttling out of office at the present juncture of public affairs. Their motives for deserting their posts are, however, entirely consistent with their past history. For five years they have shuffled out of every difficulty instead of facing it like men. Their one thought has been for themselves and their

party, not for their country and its welfare. So it is now. If they had possessed a spark of loyalty or of patriotism, they would have offered to make the only possible reparation for all the wanton and wicked mischief they have perpetrated. They would have been willing at least to await the formal verdict of the country, to be expressed at the General Election, and to bear for a few months longer the burdens which they have themselves accumulated, instead of shifting them on to the shoulders of others. The spirit in which they are quitting office is evident from the undisguised exultation which the Radical party in general is just now exhibiting at the grave embarrassments which a Conservative Ministry will inherit from its predecessors. It is nothing to Mr. GLADSTONE and his confederates that the affairs of the Empire are thrown into confusion, if only they can play their opponents the trick of forcing upon them the responsibilities of office under disadvantages of the most serious character. There is no possible justification for Mr. GLADSTONE'S determination to invest a mere Budget proposal with a vital character; and Lord RICHARD GROSVENOR has hardly succeeded in disproving the allegation that Ministers deliberately neglected to call upon their usual supporters to muster for the division on Monday night. In any case, being amply forewarned of defeat, they could successfully have insisted on an adjournment of the debate; or they could on a subsequent occasion have adopted the course of asking the Radical House of Commons, which has so often shielded them from the punishment they have earned, for a Vote of Confidence. Everything therefore goes to show that they purposely courted defeat, and that they have insisted on bringing about a change of Government solely to further the most despicable party ends.

The Opposition Leaders have often been falsely represented as determined not to take office in the event of a Radical defeat. There has never been the slightest foundation for such a charge. It is seen that there is none now. The Conservative Chiefs have always recognised the Constitutional responsibilities of an Opposition, and the paramount obligation of placing public duty above any considerations of personal convenience or even party interest. It has needed no "pressure" from their followers to induce them to consent to carry on the QUEEN'S Government when summoned by HER MAJESTY to do so. For them, as for the rest of the world, the results of Monday's Division may have been a surprise; but the contingency was not one which found the Tory party unprepared. At the same time, it is impossible to leave out of sight the peculiar and unprecedented difficulties which must attend the formation of a Tory Ministry. The Conservatives are still in an enormous minority in the House of Commons, while they are, nevertheless, practically unable to appeal to the country by a Dissolution until next November. Meanwhile, for the remainder of the Parliamentary Session, which must of necessity be continued for the transaction of indispensable business, a Tory Administration will remain subject to the attacks of an utterly unscrupulous and unprincipled horde of Radicals and Parnellites, who are bound by no considerations of political honour or even of ordinary decency —to say nothing of generosity or of chivalry. The greatest difficulty of all will present itself in connection with the proposals for further exceptional legislation for the suppression of Crime in Ireland; but there seems good reason to hope that at least the more moderate section of the Liberal party will strengthen the hands of the new Ministry in the task of governing Ireland. If this obstacle were surmounted, there is no other to be faced of equal magnitude. In the event of a hostile vote in the House of Commons, the Conservative Cabinet will be fully justified in retaining office pending the appeal to the nation. No doubt the Radicals hope, before the General Election takes place, to stir up the country by a Revolutionary agitation against the Tory Ministry. This is an anticipation, however, which we believe to be doomed to a disappointment as bitter as that which followed the scandalous agitation of last autumn; and the probability is that, by the time the General Election arrives, the Conservative Government will already have won for itself the esteem and confidence of the nation at large.

If there is much to discourage even the boldest and most patriotic of statesmen in the present condition of our national affairs, there is also much to warrant the hope that the change of Ministry will at once tend to release the country from the position of hopeless entanglement into which it has been led by the criminal blundering of the last few years. It is not an exaggeration to say that the whole situation will be instantly changed for the better. Much of the evil brought about by Radical mismanagement may be irremediable; but the gravest peril to the Empire was the continuance in power of the Radical Ministry. Every single day that saw Mr. GLADSTONE in charge of the destinies of England was liable to accumulate new dangers and to witness new disasters. Not a moment is to be lost now if the country is to be spared the worst results of Radical policy in Egypt. The Suez Canal Commission has all but concluded its sittings, at which the paramount interests of England have been held in light esteem. The momentous question, too, of Egyptian finance still awaits the final settlement of Europe. And as to the intense gravity of our military position in Egypt and the Soudan at the present moment, let Sir EVELYN BARING'S and Lord WOLSELEY'S outspoken protests testify. It may be that the accession to power of a patriotic Ministry will, even now, avert at least many, perhaps most, of the evils that menace our position in Egypt. As regards the Afghan question, it is at least certain that the Conservative policy will be free from the alternate blustering and pusillanimity which have characterised Lord GRANVILLE'S diplomacy, and which do not even form the least guarantee of a real and stable peace between England and Russia. Already the prospect of Lord SALISBURY'S return to power has evoked unmistakeable expressions of satisfaction both in Germany and in Austria. The friendship of England has always been valued by Prince BISMARCK; and, though Germany may still be bound by engagements into which the hostility of Mr. GLADSTONE forced her to enter, we may confidently expect that a Tory Government will be able to secure for England at least a partial restoration of that good understanding with Germany and Austria which was the basis of Lord BEACONSFIELD'S successful foreign policy. This, of itself, would considerably strengthen the hands of the English Ministers in carrying on negotiations with Russia. Similarly it may be anticipated that the re-establishment of friendly relations with the Porte will greatly assist the solution of the Egyptian problem. These are some of the chief prospects which wait the advent to power of a Conservative Government; and every patriotic Englishmen will hope for their speedy fulfilment.

THE FALL OF THE MINISTRY.

The good news of the fall of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government has created a feeling of joyful surprise, not only throughout England, not only throughout the British Empire, but, with significant exceptions, throughout Europe. It was hardly to be expected that the downfall of Mr. GLADSTONE should be an occasion of rejoicing either to the advisers of the CZAR or to the Ministers of the French Republic. There are excellent reasons why the continuance in office of the Radical Administration should be deemed extremely desirable, both at Paris and at St. Petersburg. As long as Mr. GLADSTONE retained power, the enemies of England were well aware that their game could be played with perfect impunity. The five years during which his Ministry has guided the destinies of England have made up a period absolutely unique in the history of our country. Whatever fate may be in store for us in the future, those five black years will ever be remembered by Englishmen as marking an era of mismanagement of our national affairs so gross and so wanton as to be quite unexampled. Never in all our annals did a Government accede to power with a finer heritage of national *prestige* and influence; and never did a Government so completely and causelessly squander the national fortunes. As the mind carries back its recollections over these five years it finds itself unable really to account for the wretched spectacle which they present of mismanagement so extraordinary, of blundering so unequalled, of failure so complete, of humiliation so abject, that if the worst foe of the Ministry had foretold what would occur under that Ministry's auspices, his prophecies would have been set down almost as the ravings of a madman.

And now that it is all over with this Ministry of Infamy, men breathe freely again. The wounds inflicted on England's honour are indeed deep and, as some hold, well-nigh irremediable. But yet the knowledge that at least the men who have inflicted these injuries are ousted from power—that their opportunities for mischief are at last cut off—is sufficient to justify a hope that our national affairs will now take a turn for the better. How it has come to pass that a Ministry which began its career backed by a majority of unprecedented numerical strength, and maintained for five years in power by a compact and obedient, if gradually dwindling, body of Parliamentary supporters, should at last have fallen as this one has fallen, might well have been matter for surprise, unless the true explanation had been forthcoming. It was not the vote of last Tuesday that killed the Government. There is no doubt that the Cabinet was already going to pieces from internal discord. Lord RICHARD GROSVENOR'S vindication of himself from the charge of negligence in whipping up the supporters of the Government for the Division on the Budget Bill does not explain why it was that Ministers, foreseeing their defeat, refused to secure a victory, as they might have done, by adjourning the Debate. The reason is quite clear. The Radical leaders in the Cabinet were firm in their deliberate purpose to break up the Ministry rather than assent to Lord SPENCER'S demand for a renewal of Coercion in Ireland. Their defeat on the Budget Bill was welcomed as affording them a pretext for resigning. Had it been otherwise, resignation would have been forced upon them by their own internal dissensions. It was plainly less humiliating to fall by a vote of Parliament than to go to pieces spontaneously.

And even if we are to accept the other account—doubtless true in part—that the Ministry were beaten through the negligence of their supporters to obey the summons of the Liberal Whip, such a fact would be full of ominous significance. Only one interpretation can be placed on such a large number of Liberal abstentions—namely, that they were due to a forcible though tardy conviction that the country was weary of the Government; that Liberal members of Parliament were tired of the dishonour of perpetually voting against the dictates of their consciences to keep the Ministry in office; and that they were glad of an opportunity of allowing the real judgment of the people to find expression in a vote of the House of Commons. Not that this determination does the least credit to the House of Commons. If during the last five years any conduct is even more deserving of censure than that of the wretched Gladstonian Ministry, it has been that of the House of Commons. There has not been a misdeed but they have condoned it—not a disgrace but they have hastened to share in it—not a negligence but they have been partakers in it. The House of Commons has been the accomplice of the Ministry in every one of its crimes. Now the Ministry is dead, and very soon the House of Commons will be dead too. They will be remembered in English history as the very worst Ministry and the very worst House of Commons that the country has ever known.

THE DEFEATED BUDGET.

Even the servile Radical majority of the House of Commons has at length revolted from the strain upon conscience and commonsense to which it has been incessantly subjected by Mr. GLADSTONE'S Cabinet. It has shrunk from expressing its approbation of the monstrous financial proposals of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER. By the numerous abstentions of Radical members from the critical division on Monday night, the Conservative party was enabled to give expression to the condemnation of Mr. CHILDERS'S Budget that had already been emphatically indicated by public opinion. There is, in the first place, a general feeling of indignation that an expenditure of one hundred millions should be incurred simply to pay the cost of purposeless slaughter in the Soudan and of a shameful surrender to Russia. There is, in the second place, the universal conviction that the methods by which the Radical Government proposed to meet this wanton waste of the national resources are financially objectionable and morally unjust. The vote of the House of Commons has happily given practical effect to the national judgment. It is, perhaps, of little significance that the Budget was based upon principles that are in direct opposition to the axioms of finance that Mr. GLADSTONE has on different occasions enunciated. Mr. GLADSTONE'S principles on finance, as well as on other matters, are apt to be evolved with solitary reference to the polemical considerations of the time. As we are far from sharing in the Radical estimate of Mr. GLADSTONE'S eminence as a financier, and regard the financial policy that Mr. GLADSTONE has pursued in the past as economically unsound, the fact that in the present case Mr. CHILDERS'S practice is in defiance, in important respects, of Mr. GLADSTONE'S precepts will certainly not unfavourably affect our estimate of the Budget. It is something that the folly of that great principle that in each year any extraordinary expenditure should be defrayed out of the taxation of the year, upon which Mr. GLADSTONE so solemnly descanted during the Midlothian campaign, should be promptly abandoned. It is something, too, that the principle that extraordinary expenditure should be shared in by all classes of the community should, however imperfectly, be in some degree recognised by a Cabinet of which Mr. GLADSTONE is the head and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is a member. It is fair to acknowledge these merits in a Budget which, in all other respects, is open to unreserved condemnation.

Against the proposals to increase the duties on spirits and beer there has been a practical unanimity of complaint in England, Ireland, and Scotland. Only the total abstainers and the extreme temperance party attempt to vindicate them. And their motives are those not only of sentimental conviction, but of practical interest. The Radical teetotalers would escape their share of the new taxation. As they have done so much to keep the Radical Government in power, it is certainly equitable that they should pay for the luxury. There is no question that beer and spirits are already sufficiently taxed: the Excise duties from beer and spirits have been steadily falling off during recent years. The increased duties would undoubtedly still further restrict consumption, and in the end the profit to the Exchequer might prove to be infinitesimal. The first effect of the increased duties would be to injuriously affect the quality of the national beverages of the kingdom. The encouragement that would be given to illicit brewing and distilling cannot, too, be overlooked. The injury that would be inflicted on the agricultural interest from the necessary influence of the new taxation on the demand for barley ought not to be lightly regarded. There is no difficulty in suggesting articles of consumption which might be taxed so as in a far less appreciable degree to affect the consumer or to injure the great interests of the country, whilst the benefit that would accrue to the Exchequer would be both larger and more certain, and the entire community would be equally brought under contribution. Duties on tea and sugar are open to none of the objections that the increased taxation of beer and spirits is exposed to.

The proposals for the increased taxation of real property were open to even more sweeping censures. At the present time, when the agricultural interest is in a condition of the utmost depression, and when by general consent an unfair proportion of public burdens is thrown upon the land, there is no defence for fresh imposts which are arranged to fall upon landowners. The death-duties, as Mr. GLADSTONE has awkwardly designated them, are financially exposed to the most serious objections. Instead of taxing income or expenditure, they confiscate capital, and they confiscate property at a period when its owners are least able to suffer loss, and in a way which makes the loss most difficult of endurance. A permanent and fixed Income-tax of 5 per cent., extortionate though that may seem, is economically preferable and would probably be less onerous than the death-duties. Sound finance would counsel their entire abolition, but the tendency of modern Radicalism is to increase them. In the present case the proposal is to equalise the duties payable by real property and by personalty. But, as was clearly shown in the course of Monday's debate, the conditions in the case of the two kinds of property are far from being equal. Not only is real property unduly taxed at present, but a landowner must find it exceptionally difficult, on first coming into his property, to meet the sudden demand for the payment of an appreciable part of his capital to the Government in the shape of death-duties.

The Budget was in effect framed by the Radical Ministry in deference to electioneering considerations. The objects aimed at were the imposition of the chief burden of the extraordinary expenditure upon the classes that are notoriously opposed to Radical politics, and the exoneration of important sections of the Radical party from taxation. The Temperance party was to be conciliated, whilst the publicans were to be once more mulcted for their general support of the Tory party. The payers of Income-tax are a distinctly Conservative class of society, and the ordinary political principles of landowners and farmers are notorious. The ingenious calculations have failed, however. The Government were clearly unprepared for

the strong opposition that, even among their own supporters, was called forth by the harshness and injustice of their financial proposals. If Mr. Gladstone had been in real sympathy with Midlothian, he would never have made himself responsible for a Budget that has offended the most widespread of Scotch prejudices and raises the price of whisky.

THE SOUDAN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Crisis of the moment may distract attention from what would have supplied a yet more formidable indictment against the now fallen Ministry. The papers lately presented to Parliament on the affairs of the Soudan, with the opinions of Sir Evelyn Baring, Lord Wolseley, and General Buller, add almost irresistible strength, if any such addition were wanted, to the arguments against their recent change of policy. It might have been assumed by some unshaken believers in their wisdom and judgment, that they were guided by some information or advice from their officers on the spot in their confident assertions that no further need existed for operations against the Mahdi, and that any danger from leaving him free action south of Wady Halfa was over. To ordinary observers it seemed that at the moment when a native revolt against the Mahdi's power was causing him much embarrassment, the presence of a British army as near as possible to the scene of action would exercise the most powerful moral effect against him. Its withdrawal, on the other hand, was the one thing which would discourage his enemies, and inspire him and his followers with fresh confidence. It might have been that those on the spot saw reason for treating these considerations as less important than they appeared. On the contrary, however, it is precisely these points which appear prominently put forward by Lord Wolseley and General Buller. Lord Wolseley urges strongly on the Government that the reasons for suppressing the Mahdi and his prophetic claims—those reasons, no doubt, which from the moment of his arrival on the spot so strangely impressed the mind of General Gordon—are insufficiently understood in England; that is, in official circles. The alternative, as Lord Wolseley puts it, is either to attack the centre of the Mahdi's power, or else to remain on the defensive on the frontier of Egypt. In the latter case, the whole province of Dongola must fall into anarchy, and eventually be occupied by the Mahdi's followers. All the existing officials, all who have declared openly for England, must fly before him. His emissaries will necessarily penetrate into regions as yet distant from any territory actually in his occupation. They are no more to be excluded than the air or the light. Unknown to those in authority, they would circulate among the inhabitants of Upper Egypt, prepare them for the Mahdi's approach, and be ready, in case any district was no longer held by troops capable of defending it, to bring about a rising on behalf of the Mahdi.

That the Mahdi will eventually attack Egypt if left alone, Lord Wolseley deems certain. But he thinks it an event which might not occur for several years. Obviously, if British troops were withdrawn altogether, the event might be hastened. If we remain, it will be necessary to be in constant readiness for such an attack—an attack which probably might come when public attention was least directed to the subject; possibly whenever complications elsewhere made it most inconvenient to deal with. The Mahdi, Lord Wolseley considers, cannot stop. The claims which are the basis of his power preclude, as has always been clear to those who considered what similar movements have been, any narrow territorial limitation. His mission was not to one or more provinces, but to as much of the Mohammedan world as fell within his reach. If not crushed, he must continue to conquer. And a struggle for the defence of Egypt against an adversary whom time and successes against his nearer enemies have confirmed in his ascendancy over his followers, will be a more serious one than in all probability would be required in an advance on Khartoum at the first approach of a cooler season. Sir Evelyn Baring, General Buller, Major Kitchener, all in different words tell the same story. They all deprecate the abandonment of Dongola, though there is some difference of opinion as to the desirabillty of having small garrisons at certain points if the troops generally are withdrawn. Major Kitchener sees that our retreat will resuscitate the cause of the Mahdi and his believers. General Buller thinks that it will give him new life at a time when the movement against him was beginning to endanger his power. Naturally, the apparent impossibility, even to those who have defeated his lieutenants in pitched battles, of gaining any permanent advantage from their victories will confirm the faith of those who believe his mission to be supernatural. Those who had hesitated between the British and the self-styled Prophet will now make up their minds to go with the latter as a chief favoured by a Higher Power. And the same effect has evidently been produced on the tribes hitherto "friendly" by the withdrawal of our troops from Souakim while Osman Digna still remains unsubdued.

It is difficult to tell on what ground Liberal statesmen defend their obstinate adherence to the view that the Soudanese insurrection is a mere local movement, one which can be allowed to run its course without affecting Egypt or the adjoining countries. They seem to cling desperately to the idea derived from the state of things before the Mahdi's victories raised him to importance, when there was undoubtedly a strong feeling of dislike to Egyptian rule among the Soudanese, which the Mahdi utilised as the foundation of his influence. They refuse in any way to recognise how the subsequent events have pushed his claims into the foreground, confirmed as they appeared to be by the annihilation of the Egyptian armies even under British officers, and the easy overthrow of the power which had so long held these regions in bondage. The view of the Radical Ministry seems to have been that after intermittent hostilities for more than a year we might ignore the ruler of the Soudan as an enemy, and establish *de facto* peace simply by retreating. Mr. Blunt, an avowed sympathiser with the Arabs, takes at least a more intelligible view in his letter to Lord Randolph Churchill, published in the *Times* of yesterday. Whether in his wish to conciliate Mohammedan feeling he would treat the Mahdi as its natural representative, is not altogether explained. But, at any rate, he would make a peace with him. Certainly a treaty of peace is a more natural conclusion to a war than a mere cessation of hostile operations without any agreement. But we know how the Mahdi received the terms offered by General Gordon more than a year back. And it is hardly likely that anything which has passed since then will have rendered him more likely to abate his pretensions. It is, of course, not absolutely impossible that, in spite of all that the recent action of the British Government has done to improve his prospects, the Mahdi may be overpowered by those who have risen against him in his rear. Of their objects and designs little is known, but probably their triumph while delivering Egypt from danger would throw the Soudan for some time into anarchy, an anarchy which might be not altogether compatible with tranquillity in the countries bordering upon it. If, on the other hand, the Mahdi is victorious in Darfour and Kordofan, the probability of his attempting to extend his conquests northward will be the greater for the additional prestige which he will have acquired. The new Ministry which will take the place of that which is responsible for the existing condition of things will find it no easy task to decide upon the future action of England in these regions. Lord Salisbury the other day declined to accept a resolution of Lord Wemyss as to policy in the Soudan, on the ground that the harm done was perhaps irreparable, especially by any action that could be expected from the Liberal Government. It is a singular but characteristic conclusion to the tenure of office by Mr. Gladstone's Administration that their last recorded act should be the direct disregard of warnings against their African policy by everyone employed under them whose warning might have been expected to carry weight.

ANOTHER LAND REFORMER.

The pamphlet on the Land question written by Mr. C. A. Fyffe is perhaps not a very important or interesting publication, although it has attained the honours of a second edition. Whatever public attention Mr. Fyffe's Socialistic utterances have aroused has been chiefly due to the rather significant fact of their having been issued with the formal *imprimatur* of a Cabinet Minister. It may be presumed that it was to Sir Charles Dilke's championship of Mr. Fyffe that the Liberty and Property Defence League have thought Mr. Fyffe worth powder and shot. At any rate their reply is exceedingly telling and effective. The severity of its strictures both on the matter and the manner of his argument is well deserved. That Mr. Fyffe's aim is to set class against class is, if possible, even more apparent from the spirit which he exhibits than from the substance of his pamphlet. On this point, however, it is unnecessary to dwell. At the very outset of his diatribe against the English land system, Mr. Fyffe commits the gross absurdity of making it responsible for the enormous, and as he evidently means to imply unnecessary, quantity of provisions imported from abroad. He ignores the consideration that the density of the population in England renders it impossible to produce at home the amount of food needed for so vast a multitude. As his opponent points out, the English land system is one which, "acre for acre, produces more "food from the soil than is produced "by any other system from the soil "of any other country in the world." The foregoing is a fair specimen of Mr. Fyffe's mode of reasoning throughout. His defence of communism in the matter of land is based on the allegation that land is distinguished from other commodities. "The "use of it is," he sagely observes, "absolutely "indispensable, and it is not capable of being "increased." The former part of his remark applies equally to air, water, food, and clothing. But their capability or incapability of increase makes no difference to the man who wants the things. Water is incapable of increase, while bread is capable of increase; but neither fact concerns the unhappy man who lacks bread or water. Land, however, is practically capable of increase, because it can be rendered more productive. And in the world there are millions of acres of land waiting to be made more productive by human labour; so that "land," in the sense of useful land, is certainly capable of increase.

So much, then, for Mr. Fyffe's general theories. The practical conclusion which he deduces from them is that landed property is rapidly accumulating in single hands, and that therefore private property in land ought to be "subject to such limitation as the public interest dictates." In the first place, the statement of fact is untrue. The present tendency is not to accumulate landed property in single hands. And, next, no one denies that property in land must be held subject to the limitation imposed by the public interest. The principle is already recognised—as, for instance, in the compulsory purchase of land for railways. What is objectionable is Mr. Fyffe's doctrine that the principle is in some special and peculiar sense applicable to land alone. Mr. Fyffe might just as well argue that, as the public interest is opposed to the accumulation of corn in single hands, therefore there ought to be special legislation to limit private property in corn. At present the holder of landed property can be compelled to sell it in the public interest, but at its full market value. Mr. Fyffe's proposal is that he should be equally compelled to sell it to anybody "re-"quiring land for any useful purpose," under an order from a local Land Court. The repugnance of the owner to sell is not to be heeded; and this for the reason that "he "who needs ground for his own occupation "seems *primâ facie* to be a more suitable "owner than one who lets it to another." Mr. Fyffe's critic pertinently inquires whether the argument of *primâ facie* suitability does not equally apply to the horses of a livery-stable keeper:—"Is the person," he asks, "who "wishes to ride one of such horses clearly a "more suitable owner than he who merely lets "it out for hire; and ought he, therefore, to "have the power to purchase it at a fair "figure?" So, too, Mr. Fyffe is reminded that, on his own principles, "there can be no "doubt that a hungry man would be a more "suitable owner of a cake than the confectioner "who puts it in the window for sale;" and, when so much as this has been conceded, there is no reason why we need trouble ourselves about the question of a "reasonable" price.

But Mr. Fyffe is, after all, in favour of giving compensation; only his ideas on the subject are rather vague. By an "equitable" price, he means "such a price as an owner "desiring to sell would accept from an ordi-"nary purchaser." Mr. Fyffe apparently forgets that in such a case the price would vary according to the intensity of the owner's desire to sell—according to whether he was anxious to sell, or willing to sell, or only prepared to consider a good offer. So, too, in estimating rent, Mr. Fyffe takes as his basis of calculation "the value of what the land would now "grow uncultivated." Here again Mr. Fyffe's opponent begs leave to ask, first, at what point in its history is the land to be supposed to have ceased to be cultivated; and, secondly, what Mr. Fyffe means by "cultivation." All these points are, however, to be left (Mr. Fyffe thinks) to the wisdom of a District Land Court, which his critic describes as a machine devised for giving one party to a contract the best of the bargain. Our old friends the three F's—Fixity of Tenure, Fair Rents, and Free Sale—are to be imported from Ireland, as to which the author of the strictures on Mr. Fyffe's pamphlet wittily observes that a fourth F is now added to them, in order to determine all questions of "fairness," "reasonableness," "equity," and so on. This fourth F, he says, is "Fyffe's "opinion." It is "Fyffe's opinion" which must be relied upon to decide what, in a case of compulsory sale, a freehold is "fairly worth;" or what, in reference to the land required by a municipality, is the "equitable value"; or what is meant by the "fair return" for his work which a farmer is to deduct before paying his rent. We cannot but feel sorry for Mr. Fyffe; but it is impossible to resist the conclusion that he has been talking about things of which he understands very little. And, even on his own showing, it turns out that, after years of what he considers "beneficent legislation"—that is, State interference with the rights of property and freedom of contract—there is ample evidence to show that "the "farmer's capital is gone, and that he has not "the means of getting a sufficiency of stock, "even when the land is laid down in grass," as it has been during the last few years to the extent of a million acres. In other words, State interference has produced a sense of insecurity, and a feeling of insecurity has resulted in shortness of credit and dwindling capital.

Many of our readers will, we are sure, be glad to obtain Mr. Philip Bagenal's admirable little volume, *The Tory Policy of the Marquis of Salisbury*, alluded to in our leading columns last week. Its price is half-a-crown, and it is published by Messrs. William Blackwood and Sons. Nothing could be more opportune than its appearance at the present juncture; and it should be in the hands not only of all Conservatives, but also of all Liberals who, disgusted with the results of Radical blundering, are anxious to co-operate in supporting a really National policy.

We desire to call special attention in this place to a remarkable pamphlet from the able pen of the Rev. H. N. Oxenham, entitled *The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill Considered in its Social and Religious Aspects*. It can be obtained from the office of the Marriage Law Defence Union, 20, Cockspur-street, S.W. A more telling plea in defence of the existing law of both the Church and the State on this subject we have never met with. It deserves to be circulated as widely as possible, and we trust that a copy of it may find its way into the hands of every Peer and member of Parliament. The political crisis has postponed the consideration of Lord Dalhousie's unhappy Bill for the Legalisation of Incest; but we entreat our friends not to suppose that the measure is got rid of, and not to relax their efforts to secure its rejection. We quote in another column a striking and forcible passage from the concluding pages of Mr. Oxenham's pamphlet, which will, we hope, secure due attention from the Conservative Peers.

Reviews.

THE REVISED VERSION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.*

[SECOND NOTICE.]

Our first cursory impression of this important work has been generally confirmed by further examination, and we are pleased to find it sustained by so keen a critic as Sir Edmund Beckett. It is still too soon for a decisive judgment, but there can be no question of its vast superiority to the ill-starred Revision of the New Testament. Its chief merit, indeed, lies in the strong contrast it presents to the other, and notably in making so little change—comparatively—in the style and renderings of the familiar Version. We could wish the Old Testament Company had strengthened the contrast, and made that little less. Another merit is putting most of the new renderings into the margin, leaving the text undisturbed. This also might have been carried further with great advantage. Indeed, if all the changes in both Testaments had been relegated to the margin the Revision would have been every way more satisfactory. They might then have undergone a rigid sifting, and the slender results in a thin pamphlet to be inserted in the ordinary Bible (as suggested by Mr. Tupper) would be of infinitely greater value than the costly volumes of this ambitious enterprise.

Happily for themselves, our Hebrew scholars have no such battles to fight over the original text as those which wrecked the New Testament Revision before its proper work was commenced. The received or Masoretic text has no "families" or "recensions" to fascinate the wrangling schools of modern criticism. The earliest known MS. is no older than A.D. 916, and the variations (*Keris*) at the highest computation are little more than a thousand in all. On the other hand there is the temptation to explain the sacred text by the *Mishna* (the text of the Talmud), which, though much older than the extant MSS. of Scripture, is still two centuries later than the Christian era, and is certainly not free from polemical corruptions. Indeed, there is too much reason to fear that the progress of the Gospel exasperated the Jewish scribes into corrupting the Scriptures themselves to defeat or obscure the Christian interpretation, and for that

* *The Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments: translated out of the Original Tongues, &c.* Being the Version set forth A.D. 1611 Compared with the most Ancient Authorities and Revised. Printed for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.—Cambridge: At the University Press, 1885.

reason the Greek Version of the Septuagint, made before the birth of Christ and in substantial agreement with the citations of the New Testament, is far more reliable in disputed passages than the Talmud. We regret to see that the Jewish press is rejoicing at some of the changes in the Revision as refuting the Messianic interpretations of the New Testament. If it be true that in the pride of Hebrew "scholarship" the Revisers have given more attention to the Talmud than to the better-known Septuagint, their emendations will merit the castigation so deservedly inflicted on the vagaries of the New Testament Company. An example of this tendency has been pointed out in Lev. xviii. 18, where we read "Thou shalt not take "a woman to her sister to be a rival to her, to "uncover her nakedness beside the other in her "lifetime." Here "woman" may be better than "wife" in the Authorised Version, as denoting the general prohibition of *incest*, whether under colour of marriage or not. But the omission of the better rendering in the margin of the Authorised Version, "one wife to another," is inexcusable. Whatever the opinion of the Revisers on this much vexed question, they had no right to rule out some of the best Hebraists—Dr. Pusey for one—by suppressing a translation supported by *all* the other places—forty-one in number—where the same Hebrew expression occurs. It is well known that the marginal renderings of the Authorised Version are generally those which the translators preferred, and to omit them may be even a more serious departure from the Received Version than a change of text. We note a still greater offence in the omission of the marginal rendering of Deut. xxv. 5, "next kinsman," in preference to "brother." The original word is not the same as in Lev. xviii. 16, where the brother's wife is rigidly, and without exception, prohibited. It is a highly peculiar term, only found in this place and in the story of Ruth, where it undoubtedly signifies "next kinsman." Further, it there appears that the obligation was transferable for sufficient cause from the nearest kinsman to the next in degree. So that if the word itself literally included an own brother as the next kinsman, this interpretation was effectually barred by the Levitical prohibition. There can be no doubt, therefore, that "husband's brother" was reluctantly inserted in the Authorised Version in deference to some Jewish authority, and against the better judgment of the translators retained in the margin. Coverdale's text reads "kynsman;" Diodati's, "cognato;" and Proop's, on the best authority of all, "cunano." It is true that the Hebrew verb is found in one other place (Gen. xxxviii. 8) where an own brother is nearest. But this was one of the customs of Canaan which Judah learned from his wife, and which the Law was given to proscribe. The Rabbis, to glorify Judah, fastened his interpretation on the Law itself in defiance of its own interdict. And from this impure source the Christian commentators were led into believing that God dispensed with the sin of incest for the sake of preserving the family name and estate among the tribes of Israel. Whatever the Talmud may say, there is no single instance of a "Levirate" marriage among the thousands recorded in the Scripture; and the acceptance of this Rabbinical gloss has become a telling argument against the retention of the Levitical prohibitions in our own marriage laws. It is every way to be deplored that in the crisis of the agitation to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister, the Revisers should even seem to surrender these two important texts to the Rabbis. We should have commended their fidelity if they had restored the Authorised Version's alternatives to the text; to suppress them altogether is surely a fatal blot on the Revision.

We have noted other changes of less importance in themselves, but still an invasion of the fundamental rule, on which the public confidence is claimed, of introducing no unnecessary changes in the Authorised Version. The Translation of 1611 follows the Septuagint and the Vulgate in assigning to "the man" the proper name of Adam at the time when the other creatures were brought to him to be named (Gen. ii. 19). In the original he continues "the man" throughout, the Hebrew word being the same. But if a proper name is given at all, there is an apparent propriety in the time so determined. The vernacular Versions exhibit a curious variety on this point. Luther, followed by Tyndale and Coverdale, defers the name to the Fall, when Adam and his wife hid themselves in the trees of the garden (Gen. iii. 8). Diodati does the same—Proop reserves it to the birth of Seth (Gen. iv. 25). The common French Bible agrees with our own. Some speculation, true or false, may underlie the three varieties; but why the Revisers should introduce a fourth by affixing the name to the moment of the sentence passed on the man at the Fall (Gen. iv. 17), and immediately deserting it in the twentieth verse, where we read "the man called his wife's name Eve," it is for them to explain. Certainly, it cannot be because he was then first addressed by God, for in the previous command with respect to the trees of the garden all the Versions accept the original word "man." With regard to other proper names, or names for which the English has no certain equivalent, we have already expressed our dissatisfaction at *Sheol* for "hell," and the reasons assigned in the Preface are not likely to be generally admitted. Assuredly we are not content that the language of the Bible should be pointedly different from that of the Creeds. Neither do we care for "giving vividness and point" to three passages in Job and the Proverbs by introducing the unintelligible word "*Abaddon*" from the mysterious book of the Revelations. The English reader is little benefited by the richer poetry of such a verse as "Sheol is naked before him; and Abaddon hath "no covering." He is quite content with "hell" and "destruction." It may be quite true also that *Ashera* is wrongly rendered "grove" in the Authorised Verson, and there could be no objection to placing "idol" or "image" in the margin on the authority of 2 Kings xxiii. 14. But that does not reconcile us to *Asherim*, to say nothing of "pillars" (marginal "obelisks") in Ex. xxxiv. 13. We venture to think that the English reader, for whom the translation is intended, gets the *meaning* better in the Authorised Version's "images" and "groves." To encumber the English with Hebrew words is no better than the *pasch* and *Azymes* of the Douai Version. It may be true, again, that "giants" in the Authorised Version (Genesis vi. 4) is not a literal rendering of the Hebrew *Nephelim;* but as the Revisers can find no better word, and it appears from Numbers xvi. 33 that the sons of Anak, "*Nephelim* which come of the *Nephilim*," were of such superior stature that the Israelites felt as grasshoppers in their own sight, the "giants" should have been left undisturbed in both places. It cannot be too often repeated that in the Bible, above all other translations, the object is to give the *meaning*, not the *form*, of the original, and that can only be done in the language and to the ideas of the reader. To an Englishman *Nephelim* has no meaning at all; instead of "englishing" the Hebrew it hebraizes the English: just as the New Testament Revisers import Greek tenses and constructions into English, to the utter confusion of the vernacular. This brings us to another change of a similar kind. In 2 Sam. viii. 18 David's sons are converted from "princes," which they undoubtedly were, into "priests," which they neither were nor could be. It is true that they were *cohanim*; but "priest" is not the English of *cohen*, it is only the English analogue of the Hebrew minister at the altar. "Priest," as we have before observed, is the English form of *presbyter*, the second order of the Christian ministry. It is properly used to denote a similar office in other religions, but it is utterly out of place when diverted to any secular rank or office. The etymology of *cohen* is uncertain; in all probability it is derived from a root meaning *nearness*. The priests were brought near to the Lord, and the king's sons were near to the throne—both were truly *cohanim*; but to turn the prince into a priest is as foolish as to call Mr. Gladstone or the French Ambassador priests because they are Ministers. It would be a waste of words to add anything to the effectual exposure by Sir Edmund Beckett and others of the silly pedantry which has substituted "caper-berries" for "desire" in Eccl. xii. 5. It shows how little the Bible can be trusted to the tact, taste, or common-sense of great scholars. If we grant that the rare word of the original is rightly translated "capers" in the LXX. and Vulgate, none the less Luther showed his sense in reading the fact in place of the metaphor. Proop also renders "desseo," and Diodati "appetito." It is not the capers that fail, but the appetite which they no longer stimulate. Capers not being now used in England, Germany, Italy, or Spain for the purpose ascribed to Solomon, the metaphor has no meaning in the vernacular. Moreover, capers are not *berries*, and the pedants are as wrong in botany as in common-sense.

In these criticisms we are not in the least unmindful of the commendation due to this Revision. We only regret that its value has been so gratuitously diminished by deserting its principal merit. We will now acknowledge with thankfulness the improvement effected in the translation of Isaiah ix. 3 by omitting the negative, which so strangely contradicts the sense. The Authorised Version does, indeed, put "to him" in the margin. Still, we much prefer the revised text, "Thou hast "multiplied the nation, thou hast increased their "joy." But why must we be thrown back on the old error by a marginal note that "another reading "is, Thou didst not increase the joy"? The fifth verse, also, is much improved, "All the armour of "**the armed men in the tumult**" ("the "boots of the booted warrior" are happily relegated to the margin), and "the garments "rolled in blood shall even be for burning, for "fuel of fire." Why, then, in the next verse break in on the majesty of the Promised Child by such a frivolous marginal reading as "Wonderful "Counsellor," without the comma?

The margin of the Revision is not, indeed, what it is in the Authorised Version, but a receptacle of inferior readings, which being once understood it would be better to have abolished. Nothing less than this will appease our indignation at "maiden," as an alternative for "virgin," in Is. vi. 14. Do the Revisers understand any difference in the meaning of the two words? If they do, they sacrifice the Scripture and the Rabbis: if they do not, why suggest it?

Mr. J. E. Muddock's *Guide to Davos Platz* (Wyman and Sons) is a useful, matter-of-fact production, with an excellent map, likely to be acceptable to all "theoretical scientists" as they term themselves. The practical parts, treating of air, water, diet, hotels, excursions, are one and all excellent, and enable us to recommend it to visitors with perfect confidence.

An interesting paper on "Cornish Hagioscopes," with several illustrations, is given in the current number of the *Penny Magazine*. "Some Thoughts "for Earnest, Humble, but Uneasy Souls" will be greatly appreciated for the earnestness with which it speaks its words of comfort. "Morning: a Meditation," and several other papers, with further instalments of the serial stories, make up an excellent contents for this admirable magazine.

Correspondence.

THE CLERGY, POLITICS, AND THE MORAL LAW.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—The reasonable and due political influence of the clergy of the Established Church (for a parson has as much right to be a practical patriot and to warn of scheming and selfish revolutionists as a pawnbroker or a printer) has, as you, Sir, well enough know, been steadily decreasing for many years; while the electioneering powers and political tactics and influence of the various sectarian preachers—for every tabernacle and meeting-house is now a nest for Radical agitators—have largely increased.

Amongst most High Churchmen a sufficient number of genial toadies and astute fuglemen have been selected to keep that party in good humour with recent Liberal Administrations; so that the more the Established Church has been spoiled, stripped, weakened, and robbed, the louder have sounded plans of thanksgiving from sentimental dreamers, who, meditating obliquely through an inverted telescope upon apostolic poverty, get themselves made Bishops and Deacons and Canons. It will certainly be found that, as a class, the High Church clergy—as at the last general election—will next November support the Liberals. Facts and tokens on all sides indicate as much. While the new "school of thought" which champions Bradlaugh, weeps and whimpers over Darwin, and pronounces in favour of the late Archbishop Tait's nebulous "Church of the Future," as its sentiments and antics become better known, will soon be found to be inherently destructive and practicably anti-Christian.

Only on Wednesday last I heard from a Tory agriculturist at Oxford that a beneficed clergyman in that diocese, who, as I learn, is "actively engaged in winning the agricultural labourer's vote," advised a batch of such persons—gathered in a barn to hear certain imported Liberal orators distil Liberal wisdom—"to go in rather for getting seven acres apiece of the rich land of England," which, in the face of facts, he maintained "belonged to them by the gift of Providence and to which every labourer was entitled," rather than to "take up too much time in troubling about the world to come. Other-worldliness," he piously admitted, and as he termed it, might be "a useful doctrine for peers, parsons, capitalists comfortably off, and landed proprietors; but a resolution to obtain the land, which was theirs by right, and to secure true happiness in the present world, would be more dexterous and a much better and a wiser plan."

One may well ask, Is it not time that such dangerous falsehoods and designing agitators were exposed? If our most potent masters—men who know nothing and have nothing—are to be thus educated, and this by the clergy, so as to hasten the Empire's overthrow, surely it is time to begin teaching afresh the elementary principles of Right and Wrong?

Your obedient servant,
FREDERICK GEORGE LEE.

All Saints', Lambeth, St. Barnabas' Day.

MORE DESTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—I note that Radical High Churchmen—some persons call them "Radical Ritualists"—are unfolding their disastrous schemes of destruction step by step.

Instead of having reformed the Bishops' and Archdeacons' Courts, they have destroyed them; or at all events, have stood aside while others did the work of destruction. Lord Penzance's Court is the only one we possess.

Now they proceed to destroy Convocation—the *Convocatio cleri*. This, though suppressed by the Whigs, has regained a certain amount of influence. At all events, its outline, forms, and customs, are distinctly Catholic and Christian. But, with a new Convocation or Chamber of Laymen, as expounded and recommended at the English Church Union annual meeting (which new thing would dominate the old), the old and true will be utterly swept away. Sir Walter Phillimore's speech was simply revolutionary—without precedent, and without either wisdom or discretion.

Such a policy only indicates the depths of despair and degradation to which a once able and statesmanlike "school of thought" have slowly descended.

Yours faithfully,
AN ANCIENT ALLY.

Oxford, June 10.

THE COMING ELECTION.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—In your article on "The Coming Election" you have not mentioned one fact that will, I think, tell against the Conservative party, and that is the use the Liberals are making of the "big loaf" question.

Without the slightest regard to truth, the Liberals are going about saying that if the "Blues" are returned they will put a tax on corn, and anything that touches the working-man's stomach will be sure to influence his vote. We want a plain denunciation of this lie by the Conservative leaders.

Our opponents are circulating papers from house to house containing this false statement, but the Conservatives have done little or nothing to counteract it. Cannot you stir them to energetic action?

I am half afraid the Conservative after the next election will be an extinct animal.

I am, your obedient servant,
T. NUNN.

Pennard Rectory, Glastonbury, June 8.

TO CHURCHMEN VISITING SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—In spite of reiterated protests, the compilers of certain Directories published in the North still persist in inserting in their compilations full particulars relating to a so-called "Church of England" in Scotland. May I, through your columns, warn English tourists and those coming from the South to settle in Scotland, to make sure of ascertaining which are the churches of the Episcopal Communion, and to consult in every case the Directory under the heading of "Episcopal Church in Scotland;" otherwise they will be liable to be disappointed by finding themselves unawares attending the worship of one or other of several schismatical chapels existing in Scotland.

I am, Sir,
PRESBYTER.

Glasgow, June 6.

A POLITICAL MANIFESTO.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—It is no doubt of great importance that the leaders of the Conservative party should formulate a definite programme under which the party may go before the electors with, if possible, a united front. But there is one thing of even greater importance than a direct political programme adapted to the immediate wants of the day. This urgent want is indicated in a general way in the letter of Mr. Auberon Herbert to the *Times*, which you quoted on June 6. I apprehend, however, that Mr. Auberon Herbert's clear-sightedness, combined with his Radicalism, make him somewhat too much of a cynic in politics. Nor can I be surprised at this, for I do not think that light will come from the quarter to which he is accustomed to look for it.

It is a more serious sign of the times when a man like Mr. Alfred Austin flings away, in a measure, political responsibility. I do not approve of Mr. Austin's attitude at the present moment, but I see in it what in the near future may become obligatory upon men of sense and honour if powerful means are not taken to prevent it. In these circumstances I wish to know, not what the Conservative leaders are prepared to offer or the party to accept as a direct political programme, but what the party itself means to do as to its permanent principles as a party.

Is it realised that the present is a crisis in the fate of parties, and, above all, of the party at present in Opposition? The danger I refer to is not one that comes immediately from political foes. It is not the danger that Liberalism, or Radicalism, or both combined, may triumph at the polls. It is the danger that before the polls are reached the Conservative party may have ceased to exist, and that no Conservatives will return from the polls because none have gone there. The question to which an answer is urgently wanted is this, What attitude does Conservatism mean to take in face of Democracy?

If Democracy is to be acknowledged as master; if Conservatism is merely to bid against Liberalism and Radicalism for its support; if it is to out-Chamberlain Chamberlain and pile Morley upon Morley, in the vain hope that Democracy itself can be out-Democratised, then the Conservative party will simply have ceased to exist, and there will be no more meaning in its designation than if it were called simply the Opposition faction. Then will have come the time when men of sense must cease to take part in political life.

Again, if it is to be tolerated that Conservative candidates here, there, or everywhere should court the Democracy by offering some sort of blend, adapted to their own taste, or in fancied conformity with the particular situation, of Conservative principles with Radical schemes of progress, then there may be individual Conservatives, but there will be no Conservative party. There is only one escape from these dangers, and it is that pointed out by Mr. Auberon Herbert. If there is to be in the next Parliament even a section of a Conservative party, those who are to constitute it must make up their minds now to speak the truth to the electorate. If there is to be a united party, the union must be on this basis: there must be some elementary truths adapted to the situation upon which the whole party must be agreed to stand. The electorate may not be a pleasant body to face on such a basis, but on no other basis can a Conservative party face it.

Now, what are the elementary political truths of the present situation? There is one class of them—that which has become historical—which presents no difficulty. To state them with substantial accuracy it is only necessary to summarise Lord Randolph Churchill. Nevertheless, for the sake of comparison or contrast with the other class, the speculative or anticipative, I shall briefly summarise them.

There need be no delicacy in saying that the conduct of the present leaders of the dominant party in the State has been habitually unprincipled. Whatever may be the motives or pretensions of individual men, conduct which cannot be explained in language which is not casuistical—which cannot, however explained, be reconciled with intelligible or avowable principles—is unprincipled conduct, and this should be said often and everywhere. But it must also be said that the party, taken as a whole, which has supported the measures of these leaders is as unprincipled as its leaders. As that party has predominated in the present Parliament, it should be said everywhere and repeated constantly that that Parliament is among the worst, if not the very worst, that has ever sat at St. Stephen's. One thing more may be said as a historical fact, although it bears an anticipative conclusion. It may be said safely and with a good conscience that the constitution of the present Radical-Liberal party is a political fraud, and that no good can ever be expected to come from such an imposition.

"A Liberal," the Conservative candidate may say, "I can respect; a Radical I can respect; but a Radical-Liberal is an impossible hybrid. It is impossible to be at once extreme and moderate. The man who pretends to be so is either not a rational being, or he is not an honest man; and what cannot be united in an honest man cannot be united in an honest party."

But the individual or the party which dares to speak these truths must do much more. If any Conservative is about to take either of the courses I have indicated, then I think it would be wise for him to say as little as possible about Liberal delinquencies. If the Conservative party is not determined to let its chance of success rest upon its giving true advice, then its charges against its opponents will simply be the abuse of an abominably black pot by a very sooty kettle.

But if it is important that the electorate should be told the truth, the thing it is most important they should be told is the truth about themselves; and if they are told the truth about themselves, they, and especially the new electorate, must be told this—that the chief danger to the State comes from them, and that if they listen to men who flatter them the State will certainly be ruined. They must be told that the danger of disruption to the empire does not come from Russia or France, it does not come from Africa, Asia, or America, or from the whole continent of Europe. It does not come even from Irish disaffection. It comes from the electors in English and Scottish counties and boroughs.

They must be told, too, that the danger is extreme, and that, unless a remedy of which they do not dream is applied, it will be permanent. The ultimate source of the danger, it must be said—the source that would remain if any Government or party

were swept away—is that the extended electorate puts the preponderance of political power in nearly every constituency into the hands of a single class, the class which has not means enough to employ its own labour, but is dependent for support on industry organised by the capital of others. It must be told that no one class, however numerous, can safely be trusted with predominant power in the State; that Democracy is a lie against the constitution of human society, and against human nature, on which that constitution is founded, and that the community which trusts to it will sooner or later find its social interests injured by it.

This is the fundamental truth of the present situation, but before I draw an inference from it I wish to state a minor one.

The genuine Conservative candidate ought to tell the constituency whose support he solicits, that, whether under a Democracy or otherwise, the only bond he will recognise between him and them is that of the principles he professes; that sooner than accept as the guide of his political course the transient passions of any accidental majority, he would let the biggest millstone be tied round his neck, and be drowned in the deepest part of the sea.

Now, it is clear that if such principles as I have laid down are professed by the Conservative party, the party must demand from its leaders a programme in accordance with them. It must be proclaimed, not as one object only, but as the first object of the party, to complete the reform of Parliament—first, by extending the franchise to the utmost limit that Democracy can demand, but on the basis of a classification which will prevent any one class from acquiring a predominance of direct power; secondly, by adapting the constitution of the House of Lords to a harmonious relation with the Reformed House of Commons.

That this policy is expedient should be evident to any one who looks below the surface of affairs. That an agitation for further extension of the franchise will be begun immediately by the left wing of the Radical party is self-evident. The great fault of Conservatism in this country has always been that it has pursued a negative and resistant policy. In the end this policy has always been unsuccessful, and has given the enemy in his most perverse movements not only the prestige of success, but the presumption of right.

Now here is a positive and aggressive Conservative policy. It is more; I believe it is a victorious policy. If resolutely pursued, I believe it will triumph, in spite of Radicalism, Parnellism, and Hartingtonism or Log-Liberalism, and that in triumphing it will save the country.

Mr. Gladstone, it may be noted in passing, counts for nothing in party politics. A political party, for good or for evil, implies adhesion to some particular principles. To what principle has Mr. Gladstone ever been faithful? He has crossed the political stage, but his course has been a parabola, always equidistant from the truth, so that he has contrived to move from one end of the political platform to the other without ever for one moment being consistently right. His only genuine position is that of an autocrat; but, despite his autocratic instincts, the later part of his career has been distinguished by subservience to the noisier passions, not of the people, but of the populace. He may have used party as a tool, and it may have used him as a figure-head. Both movements have no doubt been going on simultaneously, but *it* has had considerably the best of it.

Is there not among the Conservative leaders one with courage enough to give the party a positive policy if it demands it? The initiative can hardly come from the individual leader. On the few occasions on which a leader has changed the aspect of a party, it has been a slow process, and for this there is in the present emergency neither time nor opportunity. But to accept and promote a change will still require high courage and address. Who has got it? If I may express my opinion freely, I will venture to answer.

For Sir Stafford Northcote I have the highest respect, as a man of sound sense, always ready and equal to the occasion; but I do not think much political initiative is to be expected from him. I have before expressed the opinion that if we could swallow and digest Lord Randolph Churchill it would greatly improve his constitution. As to Lord Randolph himself, I am tempted to wish he would confine himself to attacking his enemies, which he does delightfully, and be as sparing as possible in enunciating his own principles, the perusal of which is apt to be excruciating to the nerves. In the Marquis of Salisbury it appears to me that Conservatives have got a leader of courage and ability beyond what they suspect, perhaps beyond what he himself suspects, and who would lead them far if he could only be induced to rouse himself, and if they would shake off the fear of their opponents and trust him. If they would only take a lesson from their opponents, and consider whose speeches inspire the greatest wrath in the ranks of the Radico-Liberal alliance, they would know whose guidance to seek.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ROBERT SCOTT MOFFAT.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

Our esteemed correspondent the Rev J. E. Rudd, Rector of Covenham St. Mary, writes:—"Triulas triulado—*i.e.*, Plaguy July, because in this month there is so much work for the farmer. The early days of the ensuing month of July wear an exceptionally stormy aspect. The temperature may be high during the first week, but will be exceedingly low and cold between the 12th and 31st, and the weather at intervals will be wet and uncomfortable. There may be variations from foul to fair weather on the 4th, 17th, and 31st. Wind at intervals will prevail between the 9th and 15th."

Mr. J. F. Moss, Clerk of the Sheffield School Board, has revised and brought down to date his Handbook of the New Code, which Messrs. Cassell and Co. will publish next week.

It is reported from Munich that the King of Bavaria has commanded the manager of the Theatre Royal in that city to produce M. Sardou's *Théodora* at a cost of 200,000f. The King will be the sole spectator of the performance, which is to be continued during his pleasure.

A ballad concert, under the patronage of the Duchess of Edinburgh, Princess Louise, and others, is announced for the 16th inst., at Prince's Hall, Piccadilly, in aid of the funds of the Society for Providing Artificial Limbs and Surgical Appliances to Poor Cripples. Mdme. Patey, Signor Foli, and several other well-known artists are engaged.

On the evening of the 22nd of May a mirage was seen from Visby, on the island of Gothland, in the Baltic. It appeared out at sea, on the western horizon, and represented a town on both sides, surrounded by high forest-clad mountains, which seemed to be within distance of only a few miles. A large vessel with three masts lay in front of the town. The mirage lasted a couple of minutes, when it suddenly disappeared.

The results of a series of observations carried out by the Hydrographical Bureau at Washington, in order to determine the length, depth, and duration of ocean-waves, have been published. The largest wave observed is said to have had a length of half a mile, and to have spent itself in 23sec. During storms in the North Atlantic waves sometimes extend to a length of 500 and 600ft., and last from 10 to 11sec. The most careful measurements of the heights of waves give from 44 to 48ft. as an extreme limit; the average height of great waves is about 30ft. These measurements refer to ordinary marine action, and do not relate to earthquake action or other exceptional agencies.

The preliminary arrangements are announced for the Birmingham Musical Festival, which will be held on the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of August, under the usual Royal patronage. As hitherto, Birmingham eclipses all its provincial contemporaries in point of novelties, no fewer than seven new pieces having been composed or now being in course of composition specially for this festival. Taking the musical programme in the prescribed order, we have Mendelssohn's favourite opening oratorio *Elijah* for the first (Tuesday) morning; and in the evening will follow a new cantata, *Sleeping Beauty*, by Mr. F. Cowen, a new symphony by Mr. Ebenezer Prout, and a miscellaneous selection. On Wednesday morning will be given for the first time Gounod's much-talked-of *Mors et Vita*, and this will be repeated on the Friday night. On Wednesday evening will be given *Yule Tide*, a new cantata by Mr. Thomas Anderton, to be followed by a miscellaneous selection. Thursday morning will be devoted to Handel's *Messiah*, and in the evening another new cantata, *The Spectre's Bride*, by Dvorák, an entirely new composition, written especially for the Birmingham meeting, followed by Mr. Gladstone's Latin translation of the hymn "Rock of Ages." On Friday morning another new oratorio, *The Three Holy Children*, also composed for this festival by Dr. Villiers Stanford, and Beethoven's choral symphony, make up the programme. The engagements of principal vocalists include Mdme. Albani, Mrs. Hutchinson, and Miss Anna Williams (sopranos); Mdme. Patey and Mdme. Trebelli (contraltos); Mr. E. Lloyd, Mr. Wade, and Mr. J. Maas (tenors); and Mr. Santley, Mr. F. King, Mr. Watkin Mills, and Signor Foli (basses). A string band of about 130 performers will be led by Señor Sarasate and Herr Hans Richter as conductor, succeeding the late Sir M. Costa, has already introduced himself to the Birmingham chorus, which numbers a total of nearly 400 voices.

In a return relating to experiments on living animals issued on Saturday, Inspector-General Bush reports that forty-nine persons held licences during 1884, and the total number of experiments of all kinds performed was about 441. The animals operated upon were all rendered insensible during the experiments. Of 145 experiments 99 consisted in simple inoculation with a morbid virus, in which no operation beyond the prick of a needle was required, and for which the administration of an anæsthetic would only have entailed needless annoyance and distress to the animal. In these experiments any appreciable suffering would be felt only in those cases in which the inoculation took effect, involving about the same amount of pain as ensues on ordinary vaccination, for the brief period the animals were allowed to survive. Of such cases about sixteen occurred. Of the remaining forty-six experiments under these certificates, twenty-four were performed for the purpose of medico-legal inquiries in cases of suspected poisoning, resulting in the death by tetanus of three frogs and six mice, which survived, however, only a few minutes; ten other cases under the same head were experiments on the infection of fish with a species of fungus, very destructive in certain rivers and streams; and five on the effects of immersion of fish in distilled water, which proved fatal to about thirty minnows and sticklebacks. In none of these cases could it be said that any appreciable suffering was inflicted. In seven cases, in which salts of ammonia were hypodermically injected, two are returned as suffering pain, but of a very trifling character. Of seventy-six experiments under certificates, forty-seven required a simple operation, but this being done under anæsthesia was unfelt, and the after effects, though in many of the cases resulting in partial paralysis, are reported as having been unattended with actual pain in any case. The remaining twenty-nine were by simple inoculation, and none were attended with pain. The amount of direct or indirect actual suffering, as the result of physiological and therapeutical experiments performed in England and Scotland under the Act in the year 1884, was wholly insignificant.

THE INCEST BILL.

We quote the following passage from an admirable pamphlet which has just appeared on the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, by the Rev. H. N. Oxenham, and to which we have alluded elsewhere:—

"It is no special concern of mine to vindicate the claims of the Church of England in the matter, but it is a point worth the attention of statesmen, whether or not belonging to her communion, that—in the words of a writer already quoted—'every such marriage (as it is now proposed to legalise) would be a nail in the coffin of the Establishment.' That the almost unanimous verdict of Anglican Bishops and divines, representing the most diverse theological schools, is adverse to the proposal, we have already seen; the Lower House of Convocation, two years ago, declared that, 'if the Bill should unhappily become an Act, it would not only produce untold miseries in families, but *would also bring the law of the land into direct antagonism with the law of God and His Church.*' And it has but one single supporter on the Episcopal bench. So well indeed is this understood that the promoters of the measure have found it prudent to insert a clause in the Bill exempting the clergy from any obligation to celebrate or recognise these marriages, which indeed are only to be valid when performed in presence of the registrar, and it is so framed, apparently, as to leave the Bishops still free, if they think fit, to proceed against them in the ecclesiastical courts for doing so. Good; but how will it work? The great majority of the clergy probably—certainly many thousands of them—would in any case refuse on conscientious grounds to perform these so-called marriages, or knowingly to admit to communion those who had contracted them; and that alone would stir up heart-burnings and contention equivalent to many fresh 'nails.' But further than this, let us suppose the very possible case of a Bishop who had the courage of his convictions, proceeding, as he would be in duty bound, and as Dr. Milligan assures us that the Presbyterian Church authorities certainly would, against an incumbent who had performed a marriage ceremony, or recognised as valid, *coram Deo*, a marriage solemnised elsewhere of a kind still pronounced to be incestuous by his Church, but authorised by the law of the land, and that the suit ended, as it eventually must, in his deprivation. The public, who have watched with comparative indifference the imprisonment and deprivation of clergymen of unblemished life and unquestioned zeal, who had been convicted of the crime of lighting too many candles, or making too many genuflections at the altar, might not perhaps look on unmoved at the deprivation of a Broad Church rector, whose zeal took the very intelligible, if not very apostolic, shape of refusing to debar from communion persons united in what his Church called an incestuous connection, but what the law of the land called a valid marriage. Let us assume the deprivation to be perfectly legal, but it needs no gift of prophecy to foresee what would inevitably follow. There would be a howl of indignation in the press and on the platform about priestly intolerance and the outraged rights of the laity; there would be questions, and probably motions in Parliament; and before long one of two things would certainly happen: either means would be found to reduce the recalcitrant Bishops and clergy to submission, or, if they persevered in their resistance—and in a question of conscience I have too much respect for them to doubt that they would persevere—the Church would be Disestablished. There are those, of course, especially among Nonconformists, to whom this is avowedly an additional argument in favour of the proposed change; but into that controversy I cannot enter here. It is enough to have noted in passing an indirect but inevitable result. So far as Disestablishment goes, to pass the Bill would be the beginning of the end."

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. J. B. Beard, Curate of St. Mark's, Wolverhampton, to Vicarage of Greaseborough.
Rev. G. Bennett, to Rectory of Rode. Patron, the Crown.
Rev. W. G. Berry, to Rectory of Carlton Curlieu-cum-Hston, Leicestershire. Patron, Sir Geoffrey Palmer.
Rev. G. C. Bowring, Curate of St. John's, Lowestoft, to Vicarage of Holy Trinity, Oxford.
Rev. W. E. Butcher, to be Naval Instructor to the *Superb*.
Rev. W. J. Butler, Canon of Worcester, to Deanery of Lincoln.
Rev. J. G. Cheshire, to Rectory of Kingston. Patrons, King's College, Cambridge.
Rev. E. Coombes, to Vicarage of Hamworthy, Dorset. Patron, Lord Wimborne.
Rev. W. Dampier, Curate of Brimington, to Vicarage of St. Matthew's, Buckley, Flintshire. Patron, Mr. W. H. Gladstone, M.P.
Rev. L. Davidson, to Rectory of Chedburgh. Patron, the Marquis of Bristol.
Rev. E. Davys, to be Minister of Emmanuel Church, West Hampstead.
Rev. C. L. Dundas, late Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, to Deanery of St. David's Cathedral, Hobart Town.
Rev. W. E. Durham, to Rectory of East Downs. Patrons, the Rev. T. F. and Mrs. Arthur.
Rev. W. J. Edmonds, Rector of Highbray, North Devon, to be Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral.
Rev. A. G. Edwards, Warden of Llandovery College, to Vicarage of St. Peter's, Carmarthen. Patron, the Bishop of St. David's.
Rev. W. F. Fagan, Curate of Leatherhead, to Vicarage of Horsham. Patron, the Bishop of Winchester.
Rev. H. C. B. Field, to Curacy-in-Charge of Sedgebrook, Grantham.
Rev. J. A. Greaves, to Vicarage of Helidon, Northamptonshire. Patron, Mr. Edwin Hermus Holthouse, of King's College Hospital, surgeon.
Rev. G. W. Griffith, Rector of Llanfihangel, Monmouth, to Perpetual Curacy of Eglwys Oen Duw, Breconshire. Patron, Miss Clara Thomas, Llwynmadoc, Brecon shire.
Rev. D. Griffiths, Curate of Llandissilio, to Vicarage of Monachlogddw, Pembrokeshire. Patrons, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. G. Phillips.
Rev. C. Le P. Hesalop, to be Chaplain and Naval Instructor to the *Champion*.
Rev. D. E. Holland, to be Minister of Emmanuel Church, Holloway.
Rev. H. Jones, Minor Canon of St. David's Cathedral, to Rectory of Llangunllo, Cardiganshire. Patron, the Bishop of St. David's.
Rev. E. F. Letts, late Precentor and Minor Canon of Manchester Cathedral, Rector of Newton Heath, to be Surrogate for the Diocese of Manchester.
Rev. J. Longridge, to Vicarage of St. Clement's, City-road.
Rev. C. W. Markham, to Rectory of Aughton, near Ormskirk.
Rev. T. M. Middlemore-Whithard, Head Master Junior Department of Cheltenham College, to Rectory of Upton Hellions. Patron, himself.
Rev. H. Mooyaart, to Rectory of Up Lowman. Patron, Mrs. Fowler.
Rev. A. P. Neele, Vicar of St. Catharine's, Edge hill, Liverpool, to Vicarage of St. Luke's, Barton-hill, Bristol.
Rev. B. P. Oakes, to Rectory of Hawkedon. Patron, Mr. H. P. Oakes.
Rev. S. Pike, Vicar of St. Luke's, Barton-hill, Bristol, to Vicarage of St Catharine's, Edge-hill, Liverpool.
Rev. T. Ratcliffe, to Vicarage of Fisherton Delamere, Wilts. Patron, himself.
Rev. S. Swinburne, to Incumbency of St. Margaret's, Holyrood, Prestwich. Patron, the Rector of Prestwich.
Rev. E. Templeman, Vicar of Higham Ferrers-cum-Chelveston, and Chaplain Retired List H.M.I.S.; to Rectory of Pitchcott, near Aylesbury.
Rev. E. Thornton, Curate of St. Helen's, Low Fell, to Vicarage of Ancroft, Northumberland. Patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Durham.
Rev. A. Trollope, to Rectory of Edith Weston, Rutland. Patron, Mr. Richard Lucas.
Rev. J. S. Tyacke, Vicar of Helston, to be Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral.
Rev. W. West, to Rectory of Rendlesham. Patron, the Crown.
Rev. W. Williams, Rector of Whitechurch, to Curacy of Moylgrove, during vacancy.
Rev. D. Woodroffe, to Rectory of Stroxton.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.—Rev. Edmund Akenhead, L.Th., to St. Mary-with-St. Nicholas, Beverley.
LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE.—Rev. William Lowthian, to Kirkhampton.
LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF CHESTER.—Rev. Edmund Oldfield, to Wilmslow.
LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF EXETER.—Revs. Edward Trevor Bird, M.A., to Kenn; Arthur Henry Cooke, B.A., to Sutton-on-Plym; William Maurice Drake, to Tavistock; Nicholas Germon, B.A., to Wolborough; Vincent Radenhurst Leeding, to Exminster.
LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN.—Rev. John William Faulkner Walker, B.A., to Grantham.
LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ST. DAVID'S.—Revs. Daniel Morgan Davies, B.A., to Abergwili, Carmarthen; William Evans, to St. Mary's, Swansea; David Williams, to St. Mary's, Swansea.
LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.—Rev. Samuel Hastings Atkins, B.A., to Wootton Bassett.

OBITUARY.

June 2, at Thornton Hall, Bucks, the Rev. Herbert R. Peel, aged 54.
June 2, at Bryn Dyffryn, Llanrwst, the Ven. William Chambers Harris, M.A., Archdeacon of Akaroa, Canterbury Diocese, New Zealand, aged 43.
June 3, in London, the Rev. R. Wynne-Edwards, Canon Residentiary of St. Asaph and Vicar of Llanrhaiadr.
June 4, at 34, Milson-road, West Kensington-park, the Rev. Thomas M'Clatchie, M.A., Canon of St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong; also of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Shanghai; and late Secretary of the C.M.S. Mission in China, aged 72.
June 4, the Rev. John Green, M.A., of Berrylead, Commissary of the Bishop of Ely, and Official of the Archdeaconry of Bedford, in his 86th year.
June 4, at 21, Grand-parade, Brighton, the Rev. Thomas Beard, late Rectory of Stokesby, aged 43.
June 6, at The Skippets, Shrepcombe, the Rev. Charles Henry Browne, M.A., Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford.
June 6, at Thornton Steward Vicarage, the Rev. Adam Fitch, M.A., for thirty-six years Vicar of the parish, aged 77.
June 8, at Hopton Rectory, the Rev. Henry Downton, M.A., Rector of Hopton, and late Chaplain of the English Church at Geneva, aged 67.
June 8, at 39, Russell-road, Kensington, the Rev. Cornelius Hart, M.A., formerly Vicar of Old St. Pancras, aged 78.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

Bishop Titcomb, the coadjutor of the Bishop of London for the Continent, held Confirmations at Boulogne last week at the two licensed churches—on Friday, June 5th, at St. John's, and on the following day at Holy Trinity. On Sunday the Bishop preached at both churches.

The *Gloucester Chronicle* says that at All Saints', Dorchester, on Sunday week, the Rev. H. F. Jones caused much amusement among his congregation by publishing his own banns of marriage. The rev. gentleman is said to be in his eightieth year.

The prebendal stall in Exeter Cathedral vacant by the death of Archdeacon Woollcombe, has been conferred upon the Rev. Walter John Edmonds, rector of Highbray, North Devon.

Canon Gregory has given permission for a monumental brass or statue to be placed in St Paul's Cathedral to the memory of Mr. Cameron, Mr. St. Leger Herbert, and the other war correspondents who fell in the recent Soudan campaigns. A committee has been formed to obtain the necessary funds to carry out the arrangements.

The sermon in Westminster Abbey on Sunday, June 21st, at morning service, is to be by the Rev. C. F. Corfe, M.A., R.N., chaplain of Her Majesty's Dockyard, Chatham, on behalf of the Missions to Seamen.

The great west window of St. Paul's Church, Margate, has been filled with painted glass, from the studio of Mr. Taylor, of Berners-street, the gift of the fifteen schools attending the church. The subjects are St. Paul preaching at Athens, and St. Paul and St. Barnabas at Lystra.

Amongst the deacons ordained on Trinity Sunday by the Bishop of Bath and Wells was the Rev. Philip Chapman Barker, M.A., LL.B., who for more than thirty years has been an eminent minister of the Independent sect, and has filled the distinguished position of Tutor at Rotherham Independent College. Mr. Barker, who is a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Laws of London University, was licensed last week to the curacy of Northmoor-green, near Bridgwater. Only a few years ago one of the Tutors at Cheshunt Independent College conformed and received Holy Orders from the Bishop of Rochester.

Information was on Monday given to the Salford police of a disgraceful outrage having been committed at St. Paul's Church, Pendleton. Some unpleasant scenes have occurred at the vestry meetings between the vicar and a section of his parishioners on account of the Ritualistic character of the services, but of late the friction seemed to have almost passed away. Early on Saturday morning it was noticed that the windows of the church facing the south aisle had been riddled, and on entering the church it was found that over 200 panes of glass had been smashed and the pillars chipped with the stones which had been thrown through the windows. Subsequently it was discovered that the family grave of the Rev. F. H. A. Wright, the vicar of St. Paul's, at the Salford Cemetery, fully two miles away, was also outraged. Some years ago Mr. Wright buried a son there, and a marble cross on a pedestal had been raised to his memory. This cross was found broken for the third time.

The Rev. Canon Butler has accepted the deanery of Lincoln, vacant by the death of Dr. Blakesley. The Rev. William John Butler was as cholar of Trinity College, Cambridge. He graduated in 1840, and was appointed an Hon. Canon of Christ Church in 1872 and Canon of Worcester in 1880. He was Curate of Dogmersfield, Hants (1841-3), and Puttenham, Surrey (1843-4); Perpetual Curate of Wareside, Herts (1844-6); and Vicar of Wantage (1846-80). He is Rural Dean of Wantage (1883), Proctor for the diocese of Oxford (1874-81), and was Commissary for the Bishop of Maritzburg (1878). He is the author of *Sermons for Working Men*.

We have to record the death of one of the oldest beneficed clergymen of the Established Church, in the person of the Rev. Frederick Rouch, vicar of Littlebourne, Kent, and a Minor Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. The reverend gentleman, who was born towards the end of the last century, graduated at St. John's College, Oxford, taking his Bachelor's

degree in 1820, and proceeding M.A. in due course. Mr. Rouch was rector of St. George and St. Mary Magdalen, Canterbury, from 1829 till 1840, and vicar of Lower Halstow, Kent, from the latter date till 1859, when he was instituted to the vicarage of Littlebourne, near Canterbury. He was a Minor Canon of Bristol Cathedral from 1825 till 1827, since which time he had been one of the Minor Canons of Canterbury. The living of Littlebourne, which is of the annual value of £200, is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury.

On Thursday morning the Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, D.D., vicar of St. John the Evangelist, Red Lion-square, and Bishop-elect of Brisbane, was consecrated in St. Paul's Cathedral. The officiating clergymen were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London and Carlisle, assisted by Bishop Tufnell (the first Bishop of Brisbane), and Bishop Mitchinson, and others. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. W. Shepard, of Balliol College, Oxford. The new Bishop of Brisbane, who was born in 1837, graduated at Pembroke College, Oxford, in 1859. He was appointed curate of Chiswick in 1860, and in 1864 took charge of a mission district comprising parts of the then parishes of St. George-the-Martyr and St. Andrew's, Holborn, where he has since remained. In May last his University conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. One result of his twenty-one years' labour in Holborn has been the erection of the church of St. John, Red Lion-square, with a clergy-house, at a cost of £27,000, on a freehold which cost £11,000. More Church schools, at a cost of £9,000, have also been erected there through his exertions. He is a member of the London School Board, whose teachers recently presented him with a set of episcopal robes. The diocese of Brisbane is a large one, comprising an area more than three times larger than England and Wales. The new Bishop will be accompanied to Brisbane by four or five English chaplains.

An effort is being made to raise funds to restore the French Church in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. The portion of the Cathedral assigned to the use of the descendants of the Walloons and Huguenots is of great historic interest, as it includes the chantry of the Black Prince; and although much has already been done to improve the church, there is still considerable work to be carried out for its complete restoration. A sum of at least £2,000 is required, which will enable the committee not only to repair and beautify the whole portion of the crypt, in which the services of the French Protestant community are held, but also to make some provision towards securing a stipend for the pastor. The restoration has been undertaken as a memorial of the late Archbishop Tait.

The Bishop of Durham presided on Thursday afternoon at a largely-attended meeting at Prince's Hall on behalf of the Church Army. The Bishop of Oxford, Lord Mount-Temple, and a large number of clergymen were on the platform. The report stated that there were now 5,000 communicant working men themselves labouring for this society, and that the great need at the present moment was the erection of an evangelists' home. The Chairman said that in both Convocations the Church Army had been spoken of in uniformly favourable terms, but as he had been absent from the meeting at York he was glad to say a few words. When the Church Army was first brought before him he was predisposed in its favour; for, though he could not be insensible to the extravagances and defects which mark the working of the Salvation Army, he had admired its magnificent enthusiasm, its extensive organisation, and its undoubted achievements. He had felt, however, that a true son of the Church of England could not loyally support the Salvation Army now that it had ceased to adhere to its original programme of not counting itself a church or sect, and that its rigid and stubborn organisation, which was so unbending and exacting, was a difficulty. The problem therefore presented itself to his mind whether that organisation had not solved the difficulty of profiting by what was good in the system of the Salvation Army, and there were three features in the work of the Church Army which specially commended themselves to his mind—namely (*a*), its magnificent hopefulness; (*b*), its adoption of more varied and less conventional, and even demonstrative, methods; and (*c*) its use of working men as evangelists. The Bishop gave instances of the successful work of the army in Sunderland, and of its not interfering with, but supplementing, the parochial system. Several clergymen bore testimony to the work of the army among the most abandoned classes, and the good effect of street preaching.

At the meeting of the standing committee of the National Society on Wednesday, June 3, the following members were present:—The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Earl Nelson, Lord Colchester, Sir Richard Wilbraham, Archdeacon Burney, Canon Gregory, Canon Wingfield, Rev. G. H. Hodson, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Powell, and Rev. J. S. Brownrigg (acting secretary). A committee was appointed to prepare a petition against some of the provisions of the Welsh Intermediate Education Bill. The following grants were voted:—For building and enlarging schools, £895; repairs and improvements, £131; fittings, £25; books, £5 10s.—total, £1,056 10s.

The annual meeting of the friends and subscribers of the East London Church Fund, which was instituted in 1880 to provide by increasing the number of living agencies for the spiritual wants of the densely-populated parishes of the East-end, was held at the Mansion House on Monday. The Lord Mayor presided, and was supported by the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Bedford, the Earl of Aberdeen, Sir R. A. Cross, M.P., Mr. W. A. Tyssen-Amherst, M.P., General Wilbraham, the Rev. Canon Mason, the Rev. R. C. Billing, and others. The Lord Mayor said he knew of no other agency so deserving of support as the East London Church Fund. It ought to receive the support of all the citizens of London, because many of the inhabitants of the eastern portion of the metropolis had been driven out of the City to make room for public improvements. The annual report was afterwards read. It stated that although the receipts exceeded those of the previous year by £170, the financial position was anything but satisfactory, as the assured income of £15,000 per annum, which was absolutely necessary if the work was to be carried on with success, had not yet been obtained. In fact, they were several thousand pounds short of that amount. The operations of the fund were carried on in 104 parishes and mission districts in the East-end with a population of over a million. They maintained 162 living agencies, 80 clerical, and 82 lay agencies, the total cost being £9,439. The adoption of the report was moved by the Earl of Aberdeen, and seconded by Sir R. A. Cross, who remarked that he knew of no other part of the country where there was such need for an institution of this kind as at the East-end. He never returned from a visit to that part of the metropolis without asking himself the question what he would have been himself had he been trained in such a place. The more he came to think of it the more was he impressed with the deep sense of responsibility resting upon the better classes to do something to enable their poorer brethren to obtain some of the advantages which they themselves enjoyed. This fund gave them the opportunity to assist the poor people of the East-end, and he saw no reason why the required £15,000 per annum should not be forthcoming. The report was unanimously adopted. The Bishop of London moved the following resolution:—

That in view of the remarkable response made by the masses of the population in East London to the evangelising efforts of the Church during the late mission, there is need that the operation of the East London Church Fund should be enlarged, and to this end the meeting pledges itself to use every effort to secure for the fund an increased measure of support.

The Right Rev. Prelate said he was not able to speak about the facts of the case of East London, because he had not yet had time to make himself acquainted with them. It had appeared to him the wisest course on coming to the diocese was to take up the work exactly as it was left by his predecessor, and gradually, he hoped, he was becoming acquainted with the complicated questions which had to be dealt with in this great city. But everyone knew that the East-end of London laboured under very serious disadvantages, and more imperatively required assistance than—he would not say merely any other part of the diocese—but any other part of the kingdom. There was no other part of England in which there was such a mass of poor people left alone with their clergy. It was most anxiously to be desired that all classes should mix more freely together. It was best for society that there should be no parishes in which the people were all rich or all poor. He wished that he himself could leave London House, with its West-end associations, and live close to the Cathedral so that he might make it his chief study to take a share in the noble work which the Bishop of Bedford had been carrying on. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Tyssen-Amherst, M.P., and agreed to.

At the May Chapter of the Guild of St. Luke, the Provost, Mr. G. Cowell, F.R.C.S., presided. There was a good attendance and a number of visitors. Prayers were said by the Warden, the Rev. G. Greenwood, who, having recently returned from Egypt, was heartily welcomed. After some routine business had been transacted, the Rev. Dr. Belcher, Vicar of St. Faith's, Stoke Newington, read a paper on the "Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament for the Sick," and a sub-committee, consisting of the Provost, the Warden, and Dr. Belcher, was appointed to draw up a remonstrance to be presented to the Houses of Convocation. Dr. Belcher summarised his conclusions in regard to present liberty of action as follows:

"1. We can send the Eucharist out of the church, *during service time*, to a sick person.

"2. We can, many maintain, communicate the sick after the public celebration, from elements set aside for that purpose in separate vessels at the time of consecration.

"3. We can reserve at one private celebration, and carry the Reserved Sacrament thence to other sick persons.

"4. Bishop Cosin's rubric applies only to 'the church,' that is to the parish church, and possibly, or probably, to Cathedrals and certain colleges, though the Latin Prayer-Book above adverted to would imply that Reservation is expressly *provided for* in the Universities.

"5. That the Guild of St. Luke ought to address a respectful remonstrance to the Bishops in regard to their recent hasty and *ex parte* action in this matter."

Clergymen rarely board any of the large number of merchant ships which now frequent the Tees. As the crews in many cases reside on board, when moored at Middlesbrough and Stockton, they are outside ordinary parochial ministrations, and most favourably situated for mission visitation. There has consequently long been a cry from the seamen on the Tees that they were more neglected there by the Church than at any other large port in England. The clergy both at Stockton and at Middlesbrough have for some time strongly urged the spiritual destitution of the crews afloat upon the attention of the Missions to Seamen. In the absence of funds, several palliatives have from time to time been tried by that society, which has at length, with the approval of the Archbishop of York, appointed the Rev. John Parker to the Missions to Seamen Chaplaincy of the Shipping on the Tees, with Middlesbrough as his head-quarters. It will be his duty to go from ship to ship, from barge to barge, and from smack to smack day by day in all weathers and at all seasons, holding services with their crews where possible, conversing with the seamen, bargemen, and fishermen individually, providing them with Bibles and Prayer-Books, enrolling them in the Missions to Seamen branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, and inducing the captains to conduct Divine worship regularly on board their vessels. He will supply ships going to sea with Prayer-Books and hymns for public worship, and place bags of reading in the forecastle, so that the crews may help themselves to literature. An efficient and active chaplain for the shipping cannot fail to influence the seamen, not only when on the Tees, but also by proper organisation of Church work on board he may become the centre of a world-wide mission, carried on by the seamen themselves when at sea and in foreign ports.

On the festival of Corpus Christi, the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament held its annual commemoration. There were early celebrations at some two hundred churches. At eleven there was a High Service at St. Augustine's, Kilburn; St. Peter's, London Docks; and St. Alban's, Holborn; and there was also a still later Celebration for business men at St. Edmund the King and Martyr, Lombard-street. At St. Alban's, which was crowded, the preacher was the Rev. C. Gore, of the Pusey House, and Chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln, who took for his text Ps. xvii. 15. He said that last year when he was addressing a congregation of Indians through a Tamil interpreter he was astonished at the ecstatic devotion of the Christian natives when the Sacrament was celebrated with dignity, and he was convinced that dignified Eucharistic worship appealed to an outside area of educated men who were not touched by the dogmas of the Church. The Eucharist was the gift of God to man, and a corresponding offering of man to God. They affirmed, therefore, the Real Presence of Christ on their altar, the objective reality of the gift of Christ, quite independently of our faith, though it could only be made our own by faith. This was the key to the double code of language in the Bible condemning the unworthy reception while affirming the Sacred Presence. After a protest against the Roman custom of Communion in one kind, the preacher referred to those who would allow the use of some substance artificially medicated in place of wine. Against this the Church must protest. They needed, moreover, besides a realisation of the Sacred Presence certain adjuncts not necessary to the validity of the Sacrament, but convenient as recognising their reverence for Him Whom they worshipped. Thus, they desired to see a dignified ritual, and here he would ask their prayers for a priest in the Northern Province whose case was down for hearing in the Chancery Court of York on that very day of all days in the year, for his faithful use of such ritual, although they should guard against the error of supposing that victory all along the line was imperilled by failure at a particular point. Again, they wished to see a daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist become common, for which end their rubric required the concurrence of the faithful laity; the recognition of non-communicating attendance; and of the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament for the use of the sick and dying, a matter which approached so nearly to a necessity as to make it right for them to repeat an application to their spiritual fathers not to prohibit, if they they thought it necessary to restrain and limit, it.

THE ENGLISH CHURCH UNION.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of this Union was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, under the chairmanship of the Hon. Charles L. Wood, the president of the Union. Among those present were the Earl of Devon, the Rev. Viscount Molesworth, Admiral Robertson Macdonald, Major-General Michel, Major-General Fooks, Colonel Shortt, Colonel Grove Morris, the Hon. and Rev. H. Douglas, the Ven. Archdeacon Mason, the Rev. Canons Body, Cook, and Donaldson, Mr. W. M. Foster Melliar, and Mr. J. A. Shaw Stewart, vice-president.

The PRESIDENT, in the course of his address, said there certainly never was a time when there could be more need for proclaiming what the Church was, what were the morals she inculcated and the sacraments she administered, what she taught as the duty and true end of man, what was the life she held up as worthy of the highest honour, than there was to-day. Upon their attitude in regard to these all-important matters depended the solution of those great social questions which were everywhere emerging into prominence. M. de Laveleye, in his remarkable book on *The Socialism of To-day*, after showing how widely the conflict on social questions was developing itself everywhere, proceeded:—"The shattering of religious belief is destroying everything which can moderate the violence of that conflict. Formerly, it was towards the other world that men directed their hopes; to-day they wish to be happy in this, and are bent on destroying everything which offers an obstacle to the general realisation of terrestrial blessings." If these words were true—as he believed them to be—let it be theirs, not indeed to insult religion by supporting it as a mere instrument of social police in the interests of the rich, but to show that it was religion, and religion alone, which could make men, rich and poor alike, do their duty to one another; and which, if honestly accepted and practised, provided—as nothing else did or could—the true remedy for those terrible inequalities of condition which Socialism, however much it might make the attempt, was powerless to prevent. It required no Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes to tell them that the condition of the poor in our large towns was one which no Christian could contemplate without shame. What was the remedy? There were a Commission of Inquiry and proposals for Acts of Parliament and for new laws. Everyone was exhorted to do something; but since no Act of Parliament could make men unselfish and provident, since there was no necessary connection between the highest culture and the love of God and of our neighbour, schemes and proposals for the benefit of the poor were destined beforehand to failure, unless—as was too often not the case—they were associated with the name of Him who came down from heaven to raise us out of our miseries by associating us with Himself. Society could not be regenerated in the mass. If it was to be regenerated they must begin by using the means that had been placed in their hands for the regeneration of the individual. Christ's Church, His doctrine, His sacraments, His example,—these were the means, and the only means, effectual for the purpose. In continuing, the President said that the Rev. J. Bell Cox, the devoted priest of St. Margaret's, Liverpool, was now being attacked, and attacked under circumstances that left no doubt that it was the cause which he represented that was being assailed. All Mr. Cox's people, without a single exception, were with him, and yet he was haled before the Courts for disobedience to decisions which the Bishop of Liverpool, who sanctioned the prosecution, himself made no profession of obeying. The Bishop, he believed, excused himself for allowing the prosecution on the ground that there was no chance under existing circumstances of any legislation for the reform of the Courts on the basis of the recommendations of the Ecclesiastical Commission; but this was to forget that the report of the Royal Commission had entirely justified the contention long since made by Mr. Keble and others that the existing Courts were never intended for the decision of spiritual cases. The policy of peace had, in Mr. Cox's case, been reversed, the battle for the rights and liberties of the Church had been forced upon him and the congregation of St. Margaret's, and there was only one thing left for the Union to do—to give him their best, warmest, and most unflinching and united support in the struggle. Whatever the immediate consequences might be, they might be perfectly certain the ultimate result of such proceedings as those instituted against Mr. Cox would be to spread the faith which they were intended to suppress. In conclusion, Mr. Wood pleaded for unity among all Christian brethren, saying that half the differences that distracted Christendom were disputes and definitions about words. Meanwhile, since men were much more led by their hearts than their heads, let them implore all with whom they were brought into contact in regard to such matters to remember how grievous an injury was done to the Great Head of the Church, their common Lord and Master, and to the faith of Christendom, by their unhappy divisions. Peace with one another, not by the sacrifice of the truth, but through the truth, peace with their separated brethren at home, union among themselves, and the restoration of the visible unity with the members of the Church abroad, east and west alike, but, above all, with the great Apostolic See of the west, with the holy Roman Church, which had done so much to guard the true faith—these surely should be their objects and the objects nearest their hearts.

According to the 26th annual report of the President and Council, 832 persons had joined the Union during the past year, of whom 92 were clergymen and 740 lay communicants; there are now 300 branches and 51 district unions, and the ordinary associates number 2,215. The debt on the defence fund had been reduced from £2,932 since the beginning of 1884 to £1,533. The sustentation fund created in 1877 was still needed to supply the loss of income incurred by priests who had suffered for their faithful maintenance of Church principles. The contributions to this fund down to April last amounted in the aggregate to £5,539 15s. 6d. The revival of prosecution in the case of the Rev. J. Bell Cox, of St. Margaret's, Prince's-road, Liverpool, compelled the Council again to urge upon the members of the Union the duty of assisting to provide for other clergymen who might be called upon to suffer on behalf of the liberties of the Church. The Council endorsed the decision of Mr. Cox not to appear before Lord Penzance or the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and assured him of their deep sympathy with him under his prosecution. During the past year the branches throughout the country had exerted themselves vigorously to rouse public opinion against the proposed legalisation of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and it was hoped that, in view of the coming general election, members of the Union would impress the importance of this matter on the attention of Parliamentary candidates. Meanwhile, the Council trusted that the Primates, with the Bishops of their respective provinces, would make it clear that, in the event of the law being unhappily altered, those who contracted such marriages would be refused the sacraments of the Church. Having repudiated attempts that had been made to fasten a political character upon the Union, the Council pointed out that the Church was everywhere making her influence felt, and applying herself with energy to the great task of winning souls to Christ. As to the efforts that were being made in view of the coming general election to persuade the great masses of the people that it would be the duty of the ensuing Parliament to deprive the Church of her property, it should be the duty of members of the Church to take care that the statements so frequently made that the property of the Church was derived from the State and that it was the State which paid the clergy should not be allowed to go unrefuted. Let it be understood that they would resist to the utmost any attempt to deprive the Church of England of her endowments and her consecrated buildings, and then the battle would be more than half won. It was not the attack of the Church's enemies but the apathy of her friends which was the real source of danger; and it would be the fault of Churchmen themselves if they did not take energetic steps, at least, to make the real merits of the question intelligible to those who had now for the first time acquired the franchise.

On the motion of Mr. JAMES PARKER, seconded by General MICHEL, the report was unanimously adopted.

The President and Council having been re-appointed for the ensuing year and thanks accorded to clergymen in whose churches services of commemoration had been held,

Lord DEVON moved a resolution expressing sympathy with the Rev. J. Bell Cox and his congregation, and assuring them of support in their refusal to acknowledge the authority of the Privy Council and the Courts in spiritual matters. His lordship said he had thought that the day had gone by for such prosecutions as that to which Mr. Cox was now subjected, and he was confident that public opinion was decidedly averse to them.

The Rev. Canon BODY seconded the resolution, which, after some discussion, was unanimously adopted, and this concluded the business of the afternoon meeting.

At the evening meeting the Hon. CHARLES L. WOOD, who presided, said they were about to discuss the proposed House of Laymen as an addition to the Convocation of Canterbury. It seemed to him that the Church had very little to expect from Parliament, and that they must look to the Church herself to supply her own needs. They were now threatened with two dangers which, he thought, only the supineness and indifference of Churchmen would render real. They were threatened with an attempt to induce the new electors to inaugurate an attack upon the endowments of the Church; and, secondly, they were threatened with an effort to increase what was called the "unsectarian and undenominational" system of education adopted by the Board schools to the exclusion of the religious and denominational education of the Church. Let them all, in the name of liberty of conscience, insist that Church people should not be made to support a system of secular education to which they conscientiously objected; and, further, let them assert that, whatever their politics might be, they would not support those who were prepared to rob the Church of her endowments, which she held by as good a title as that possessed by any other proprietor in England.

Sir WALTER PHILLIMORE moved:—

That this Union commends to its branches the consideration of the report of the Convocation of Canter-

bu y as to the formation of a Provincial House of Laymen.

He explained that the object of the proposed House of Laymen was to give to the collective laity, acting with a sense of responsibility, that privilege which had never been denied to influential laymen individually.

Lord Nelson, in seconded the motion, said that whatever suggestions the Lay House might make they would be merely suggestions, and would not interfere with the ultimate rights of the Synod of the Church.

After some discussion, the motion was passed unanimously; and the adoption of a resolution expressive of sympathy with the Rev. J. Bell Cox, of Liverpool, terminated the proceedings.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church was held in their meeting-hall, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, on Wednesday, the Bishop of London (Dr. Temple) presiding. Among those present were Lord G. Hamilton, Lord Norton, the Bishop of St. Albans, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Bishop of Oxford, the Dean of Lichfield, Earl Nelson, and Sir Richard Cross. The annual report of the Committee, which was taken as read, stated that the number of schools inspected by the Education Department during the year ending August 31, 1884, was 18,761, of which 11,773 belong to the Church, 2,807 to other religious bodies, and 4,181 to School Boards. The accommodation in Church schools had risen from 2,413,676 to 2,454,788, and the average attendance showed an increase of 45,316 for the year. The Church was educating last year about half as many again as were being educated in Board schools.

The Bishop of London, in opening the meeting, said it was indeed remarkable that the Society during the last year should have been able to do so much in face of very difficult competition with Board schools. The race between theirs and the Board schools was one as unfair as could possibly be run. Still the society, since 1870, had made steady progress. They still had more than half the accommodation in Elementary schools (including Board schools), more than one-half of the children on the register, and more than one-half the average attendance. In view of the fact that a very large number of schools had been handed over to Boards, and that children were compelled of necessity to go to them, it seemed to him remarkable that the society's schools should have held their own to such an extraordinary degree. More remarkable still was it that they should have continued to make progress and show renewed vitality, and that the funds for the work should have been contributed by men who had to pay their education rates. According to the principles of the Church of England, ideal elementary education was the fusion of religious instruction with secular culture, and in a certain degree that ideal had been realised. Where, however, it could not be secured, they must content themselves with second best—the separation of religious and secular instruction, but neglecting neither. They must lay hold of the religious education of children, even though they could not deal with their instruction in secular knowledge. He thought the National Society was doing a most admirable work in maintaining its present Colleges, because, although masters might find their way to Board schools, yet the principles which had been inculcated in them at these Colleges would lead to the children being leavened with Church doctrines, and modify any feelings of hostility to the Establishment which might otherwise grow up. The system of inspection of religious instruction which the society had instituted was invaluable, especially when they considered that there was a perpetual risk of the encroachment of secular teaching in the anxiety to obtain the Government grant, and so diminishing the time given to religious education. But he did not think that inspection of religious teaching was as good as it ought to be, and it was from an institutiou like the National Society that the stimulus to work they had in hand must be sent forth, and a sense of the important duty which devolved upon them inspired.

Lord G. Hamilton moved the first resolution :—

That the National Society thankfully recognises the self-denial and zeal of those managers of Church schools throughout the country who, in some cases by preserving their schools in the face of considerable difficulties, and in others by the erection of new and the enlargement of existing buildings, have done much to promote distinctive religious education in their several neighbourhoods.

He said that they were met that year under exceptionally favourable auspices. Last year there was a falling off in subscriptions and in the grants earned by Elementary schools. In the present year the financial outlook was much more satisfactory. There was an increase in the subscriptions of between £17,000 and £18,000, and an increase in the amount of grants obtained by children in the schools of no less than £106,000. When they contrasted this increase with the loss of £6,000 on the earnings of the preceding year, they had something to congratulate themselves upon. Having had the honour to be connected with the Education Department in the last Conservative Government, he might say that £1 voluntarily subscribed did as much as £3 levied from the rates in promoting education. This was a strong assertion, but he would justify it by figures. One-half of the total elementary education of the country was carried on by the Church of England, one-third was carried on by Board schools, and one-sixth by various voluntary associations. It must be clear, therefore, that two-thirds of the national system of education was carried on by the Voluntary system. According to their present expenditure, if this had been provided by the Board schools it would have involved an additional expenditure of between £3,000,000 and £4,000,000 from the rates. It was fifteen years since the Education Act was passed, and no one could have expected that the Voluntary schools would be subjected to so great a strain. He was, however, bound to say that the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Mundella, had dealt very fairly with voluntary schools. With regard to overpressure, although there was a tendency in some quarters to exaggerate, he thought that the evidence of mothers showed that in numbers of cases overpressure had taken place. Something had been done to mitigate this by providing cheap penny dinners, but he thought all interested in elementary education ought to deal very tenderly with this complaint. He did not see any objection to allowing teachers—especially in view of the superior position and attainments of the persons entering the profession—to exercise a greater latitude with regard to classifying children for examination.

The Bishop of Oxford seconded the motion. He remarked that the managers of Voluntary schools did not expect to find their best friends in Downing-street, but in spite of the difficulties placed before them they were striving to give the children in their schools a sound religious education, combined with secular instruction, calculated to secure their advancement in life.

The Dean of Lichfield supported the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

Sir R. Cross proposed the next resolution :—

That the continual and increasing demands made upon the National Society not only for additions to and improvements of Church schools, but for annual contributions for Church Training Colleges, inspection of religious teaching in Church schools, and examination in religious knowledge of students in training colleges and of acting teachers, call for much more liberal assistance from all who value the religious training of the young in the principles of the Church of England.

He said that when the Elementary Education Act was brought in the Minister in charge of it stated that it was meant to supplement, and not to supplant, Voluntary schools. He was ready to acknowledge the good that had been done by Board schools, but it was by stretching Board schools so as to supplant Voluntary schools that so much harm had been done.

The Bishop of St. Albans seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously; and the proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Earl Nelson and seconded by Lord Norton.

The annual conference of diocesan secretaries and inspectors, principals of training colleges, and others interested in Church schools was on Thursday held in the meeting room of the National Society, Sanctuary, Westminster, under the presidency of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.

Canon Cromwell (the principal of St. Mark's Training College) opened a discussion on the expediency of requiring from second-year students in Church training colleges an elementary acquaintance with Christian evidences and the history of the English Church. After speaking of the neglect of scriptural teaching, he urged that there should be provided for the second-year students some work which was almost fresh and untrodden, in which the student was likely to take more interest than in travelling over ground he had trodden in his pupil-teachership, and which would equip him with the weapons to protect him from the trials and temptations to which they were now more than ever exposed. They were not sufficiently prepared for the attacks of sceptics and unbelievers. Every teacher should be able to give intelligent and intelligible answers why he was a believer and a member of the Church.

Lord Norton urged that the history of the Church of England should be taught in Church and other training colleges. The Christian evidences ought in this Christian land to be one of the principal subjects of instruction. The chief cause of the neglect of those subjects in training colleges was the system adopted by Parliament of supporting schools generally, not by adequate support for the general good conduct of the school, but by the most mischievous system of payments for certain results. The results of the general system, supported by rates to a certain extent, necessarily excluded religion, and therefore all religious subjects were put to a great disadvantage in that they were the only subjects to which no grants were attached. That was at the root of the neglect of the subjects which were of such primary importance.

Canon Daniel deprecated anything which would cause a perpetual state of religious controversy, for it would be productive of very serious consequences.

The Rev. R. A. Hill said that it behoved the Society, in view of the attempts to spread secular knowledge and the efforts of Mr. Arch and others to upset the Church, to do all it could to give religious instruction to the poor and the middle classes, who ought to be taught to give an answer for the faith that was in them.

The Chairman said that with all respect for the many good works on Christian evidence, he did not know that he could very confidently recommend any one of them that would be suited for the purposes of those of whom they were thinking.

The Rev. H. Roe (the rector of Poyntington, Somerset, and assistant inspector of schools) then opened a discussion on the subject of "How Church schools in poor parishes may be assisted to pay their way." In the course of his remarks he said that the money difficulty was a sort of chronic complaint. The majority of the Church schools, however, were now proved by statistics to be able to pay their way As, therefore, the disease was localised, the cure ought to be found for it. There were three factors connected with the success of late years of Church schools. The first was the increase in the school grant offered; the second was the vast improvement in the condition of the schools examined, arising from a larger and more efficient teaching staff; and thirdly, the enormous growth of the average attendance. To remedy the difficulties of those schools which were still suffering from the chronic disease of financial distress, he urged that they must improve their teaching staff and increase their average attendance. It was the worse possible economy to impoverish the school staff. In some struggling schools the fees might be raised with advantage. He earnestly advocated co-operation as opposed to isolation, as that would produce most beneficial results if it did not altogether abolish the weak and feeble schools. He advocated the formation of a union on the basis of a common fund managed by a combined committee. The deserving poor schools should be relieved. The Church schools as a whole were paying their way, for they showed an annual balance of £3,000, and the deficit in the poorer schools should be counterbalanced from the surplus of the wealthier ones. Let there be a central sustentation fund, formed and administered by the National Society. Church schools as a whole ought to be found willing to rally round the National Society, which during three-quarters of a century had done so much to organise and maintain national education.

Canon Gregory said that the great weakness of the Government system was that it gave freely to the rich and very little to the poor, and they should consider whether there could not be a more fair adjustment with regard to the grant to those who most required it. Looking at the number of schools, and comparing the average attendance, they would see how unfairly the Church of England was rated. The Church had 16,404 departments, and the accommodation did not average quite 150 children in each school, and the actual attendance in each school was about 100. The Wesleyan schools had an average accommodation of about 250, and the average attendance was about 150. The Board school accommodation was considerably above 200, and the average attendance was more than 150 in each school. That comparison showed an enormous advantage for the Board schools. He then stated that the inference drawn from the grants to Church and Board schools was erroneous, for where the Church school grant was less than that of the Board schools it should be remembered that the former schools were generally in small places in the country, and the Board schools were generally in the large towns, and that, therefore, they had a great advantage with respect to attendance.

Subsequently the conference considered the questions of the examination of schools, other than Elementary, in religious knowledge; the action taken by railway and public companies in regard to Voluntary schools; and what was the best mode of providing religious instruction for purely School Board districts.

THE YORK CHURCHES.

The *Yorkshire Post* states that yesterday week a meeting of the parishioners of St. Mary Bishophill, Senior and Junior, was held in the Cherry-street Boys' School, on the invitation of the Archbishop of York, in order that his Grace might explain the scheme for the alteration of the boundaries of those parishes as recommended by the Committee. There was a fair attendance.

The Archbishop said he believed that the incumbents of the two parishes were virtually agreed; and it was not intended to touch the charities. The reasonable and proper course with regard to them would be to appoint a committee of the leading men of both parishes, and then go to the Charity Commissioners and get from them a scheme which would be suitable to the altered circumstances, and fair and equitable to both parishes. The question might be asked why they were stirring in that matter at all. Well, they had two great parishes, and each of them had a church within the walls. One of them had a large church without the walls, whilst the other had a large population outside the walls, so that they were really extra-mural and intra-mural. It would surely be much simpler that one clergyman should take charge of the intra-mural part, with such convenient extra-mural part remaining to him as would make a good balance of the population, and that the main part of the population outside the walls should resort to the parish church which was outside the walls, and so the work would be very much easier for both clergymen. It had been thought by some outsiders, if he might say so, that he had been contemplating a great scheme for removing churches out of York. He was truly innocent of any such design. No church would be touched by the matter. He was doing what he as a Bishop had a perfect right and duty to do. He was trying to improve the position of the clergy, because he believed that improved the position of the parishes as well, and he was trying to do it by means of a rearrangement, but not by means of destroying churches. If hereafter a church should be found to be useless, that would be a question for his successor, and certainly not for him. He had no doubt the parishioners would be carefully consulted, and no church would ever be laid hands on, he supposed, until it should prove that it was useless, and that the parishioners themselves wish for its removal. He had been there a great deal too long to initiate any such scheme of destroying eight or ten churches, and no such idea had ever entered into his mind. The only object which they had in view in respect to those two parishes, which were large, important, and constantly growing in importance, was to make them more conveniently workable than they were at present. The emoluments of the two churches would not be touched, the endowment fund of £27 10s. would still attach to the church of St. Mary Bishophill Senior, and the only alteration would, therefore, be an alteration of boundaries. His Grace then explained that though the parishioners had no legal *status*, he had called them together in order that he might know their mind.

The Rev. S. H. Bennett, rector of St. Mary Bishophill Junior, said the Rev. G. M. Argles and himself had agreed that the South Bank District should be the only portion of the extra-mural population that should be attached to St. Mary Bishophill Junior, and that St. Mary Bishophill Junior should take in the portion at present within the walls which was not included in it, and which now belonged to St. Mary Bishophill Senior.

Mr. Bewlay hoped that no church would be given up for use as Sunday-schools, or for secular purposes, or be allowed to fall into disuse.

Mr. Haughton protested against the whole scheme of rearrangement of the church boundaries in the city, as well as against that particular portion of the scheme. He maintained that no reason had been given why the boundaries should be altered.

The Archbishop said that the subject of churchyards was one for anxious consideration. For his own part he dared not say that one angle of a churchyard should not be taken; but in such a case the utmost care should be taken that the remains of the dead should be reverently treated. He could not agree with the opinion that a disused church or a church not particularly wanted should not be used as a school. He should, however, be very sorry to see a church put to secular uses, and he considered that the question of the conservation of remains and relics and things of antiquarian interest was worthy of careful thought. They were not, however, going to take the smallest fragment of either of those churches away. "But," said some people, "you are going to let them be disused." Why, a clergyman could not use a church if his parishioners would not use it. It had been said that he must give a guarantee that nothing should be done in the future. He would give no guarantee for the future. What would become of the Church of England he did not know, but he knew what their duty was with respect to it. It was to leave as few weak places as possible. It was to have as efficient services and pastoral ministrations as possible. As to giving any guarantee, he would have to consult a great many political gentlemen in London, and then call another meeting and tell them what the result of his impression was as to their opinion about a guarantee. It was not for him to guarantee the future. That future rested in the hands of God. It was for them, in the meantime, to make it firm, strong, and ready. The reason for the rearrangement of those parishes was to make them more workable.

Other speeches were made, after which the meeting passed a resolution approving generally of the scheme explained. There were seven dissentients.

A CHRISTIAN VILLAGE IN MOHAMMEDAN PERSIA.

Many of us have never seen an Armenian. Those who have done so associate the name in their minds with small, active, dark-complexioned people, with jetty hair: the males of preternatural activity in business, and of commercial acuteness not inferior to that ascribed to the Hebrew; the women beautiful in their youth, with the large dreamy eyes of the Oriental, but, like most Oriental women, losing their beauty soon. It is not with the Armenian as seen in England—the smart, well-educated financier or lawyer, the man who, save for his strange patronymic, is generally taken for a Greek or a Eurasian—but with the real Armenian, unadulterated by education or intermarriage, that we are concerned.

Julfa—an Armenian village now, but once almost a city, having its twenty-four parishes—has a curious history. Shah Abbas the Great, when desirous of interesting his subjects in commerce, by a word caused to be transported the entire population of the town of Julfa on the Araxes (now an obscure hamlet on the Turco-Persian frontier, then a great and thriving city of Armenians) to the immediate environs of his own capital, Ispahan, in the centre of Persia. A large tract of land on the further bank of the River Zendarûd, on which the capital stood, was assigned to the Armenian immigrants. Parishes were marked out, lands in freehold were distributed. Churches, a monastery, a nunnery, even a cathedral, rapidly sprang up. For several years the Armenians had a good time under Shah Abbas the Beneficent; whose name in Persia even now is never uttered by the weary traveller as he reposes, at the end of his long day's journey, in the vast caravanserais (models of what such gratuitous hotels should be) which bear the monarch's name. Very similar was the position of the Armenians in Persia to that of the children of Israel in the land of Pharaoh; but, unlike the Israelites, for them there was never until these latter days any escape from the house of bondage.

The village of Julfa (says the *St. James's Gazette*) is one of the curiosities of the East that will probably cease to exist in the next fifty years. At present it merely serves the purpose of sheltering the Armenian Bishop and furnishing priests to the Armenians of India and the East. As soon as the Armenian youth can save enough to pay his passage he departs for British India, and soon by the exercise of his thrifty qualities attains a competence, sometimes even great wealth. As a rule he does not return. The result of this continuous exodus is that the place is rapidly decaying. In the strangely dry climate of Ispahan, where a bright knife if left about for a year does not tarnish, much less rust, where there is no smoky atmosphere to blacken and deface, may be frequently seen the spectacle of the entire side of some gaily decorated and gilded room, fresh as if painted yesterday, forming a portion of the wall of the garden or vineyard that now covers what once was a teeming quarter of a populous town. Abandoned churches stand in the midst of fields. The Roman Catholics, however, though few in number, still carefully tend the decaying church which stands in the garden of the Jesuit Fathers—a garden still celebrated for its quinces and apricots.

Armenians are very conservative people. The women of Julfa, save a very few only, speak nothing but Armenian; and to many of the males also Persian is a sealed book. Although the Armenians of Hamadan have adopted the Persian costume, the Armenians of Julfa and the villages in its vicinity still retain the ancient dress of their race and cling to the many curious customs of their people. The Julfa woman, covered by an immense white veil and her mouth muffled up winter and summer, silently perambulates the Julfa streets like a ghost in its winding-sheet. Still, under the archways of the ancient houses as yet undemolished sit groups of women knitting socks and chattering in the uncouth Armenian tongue. Should any Persian or European wayfarer inquire his way of them, a sudden cackle is heard, like that of a disturbed flock of geese, and the huge doors of these gateways are slammed in his face and carefully barred. Widows and wives whose husbands are earning their living in other lands form the bulk of the female population of Julfa; and, owing to the continuous departure of the Julfa youths, seeking fresh fields and pastures new, the females are in a large majority. In hard times how these poor women manage to exist is a mystery. In time of plenty all goes well enough with the Julfa woman; she knits from morning to night, the woollen and cotton socks she produces find a ready sale among the Persians, and her earnings maintain her comfortably. Besides, the Armenian emigrant in India does not, as a rule, forget the old folks he has left behind. All the brighter and more energetic spirits having left the place, there remain only the less intelligent and enterprising among the men—mostly the few who have inherited gardens or vineyards, by the careful cultivation of which they can eke out a scanty subsistence, or who possess houses that they are unable or loth to part with. These men struggle on, living from hand to mouth, and burying their hard-earned savings if they have any. Then there is the large army of pensioners and the priests. There they stand or squat in rows, in the sun or in the shade, according to the time of year. These men have some relative who has made or is

making his way out in the world; and on him they live. They will not work. Why should they? As they say: "Our nephew, son, or uncle, as the case may be, is a rich man. Work!—we live on our property." They are warmly clad, they are thrifty, though they do get drunk, and they enjoy a life of *dolce far niente*. One thing they seldom do, these native Christians of Persia—they rarely apostatise to Mohammedanism; and, considering their position, they deserve great credit on this score. But they become Roman Catholics or members of the Church of England without very much pressure or persuasion. The charms of indirect protection, or permanent employment of a light character, are often irresistible; and the Church Missionary Society numbers many of these men, and no Mahommedans, among its converts in Persia. The Church of Rome makes fewer converts, having no temporal advantages to offer; but those it does make do not relapse. Mariolatry is one of the tenets of the Armenian Christian: he curses the Persian and the missionary. The Armenian convert to the doctrines of the Church of England curses the Persian, the Virgin, and the Armenian priest; while the Orthodox Armenian curses Persian, Catholic priest, and English missionary. Thus we find that, no matter what the religion of the Julfa Armenian, cursing the Persian is a part of it.

Before the advent of the Church Missionary Society, which has given to the youth of both sexes in Julfa good and gratuitous education and medical advice, the Julfa priest ruled the roast in the little Christian community. Either returning from a successful mission among his rich co-religionists in Batavia or Bombay, or awaiting such a mission from the favour of his Bishop, he passed his time in loafing from house to house, trading on the sympathies of the women and the ignorance and bigotry of the men. A sober priest was then very rare, in a place were wine was as plentiful as water and a bottle of arrack could be bought for 3d. But now his occupation is gone. Why should an Armenian feed his priest, much less provide him with liquor, when he can still remain a Christian and avoid the burden by calling himself a Protestant? Ah, but his womenkind's savings still find a secret way to the pocket of the forsaken priest. The Scriptures, being written in the ancient Armenian language, were not understandable of the vulgar; and so the priest interpreted them at his own sweet will.

There are many signs that Julfa, the *nidus* of the real Armenian, will not exist much longer. The ancient dress is disappearing fast; so is the ancient tongue. The strange custom that a bride should be the slave of her mother-in-law and never speak in her presence, making only signs, is to a certain extent already modified; many daughters-in-law now dare to whisper in the presence of their mothers-in-law. Some of the women had been dumb for over twenty years when in the august society of their husbands' mothers. But the women of Julfa still carry their fortunes round their waists in the shape of huge plates of silver forming a belt. They still continue to wear the ancient costume of their race—the trousers, the "mobled" head, the folded muslin tightly covering the nose and mouth. No virtuous Armenian woman of the old school under fifty will let any man see her upper lip even. But their dresses are cut very low, their bosoms being slightly veiled by a thin net of crimson silk. From time to time the Armenian trader in British India, to whom the ties of blood are dear, will send for one of his Julfa nieces to wed one of his sons: the girl's sole fortune being her skill in knitting socks and her knowledge of her grandmother's receipt for pickling walnuts. The Armenian of Julfa oppressed by his Mohammedan rulers and eaten up by his priests, is but the chrysalis of the more magnificent insect—the free and intelligent citizen of the world, the enlightened, civilised, educated, and accomplished Armenian, who attains the highest honours in Oriental diplomacy or the foremost positions in European trade.

THE COURT.

Divine service was conducted at Balmoral Castle on Sunday by the Rev. Archibald Campbell, minister of Crathie, in presence of the Queen, Princess Beatrice, Princess of Leiningen, and the Royal household. The Rev. A. Campbell was invited to dine with the Queen and Royal family.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Albert Victor, and Prince George, and the Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud were present at Divine service on Sunday.

The Prince of Wales, by command of Her Majesty, held a Levée on Tuesday, at two o'clock, at St. James's Palace. The Prince entered the reception chamber, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Cambridge, and other members of the Royal family, shortly after two o'clock. A large number of military, naval, and Government officers were present, besides nearly all the Ambassadors and Ministers to the Court of St. James's. Mr. Gladstone drove with Mr. Childers from Downing-street, and arrived shortly after two o'clock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Prince of Wales has consented to lay the foundation-stone of a new dock at Preston on July 17.

Prince Albert Victor was on Wednesday evening called to the Bench of the Hon. Society of the Middle Temple, and afterwards his Royal Highness dined in the hall with the Master of the Temple (the Very Rev. Dr. Vaughan), the Treasurer (Mr. W. H. Higgin, Q.C.), the Prince of Wales, and the other benchers, and a large number of barristers and students. Among the guests were Sir S. Northcote and Lord R. Churchill, and one of the most noteworthy events of the occasion was the manifestation of enthusiasm which their appearance in the hall evoked.

The Master Cutler has received a telegram fixing the date of the visit of Prince Albert Victor to Sheffield. His Royal Highness will arrive on the 30th of June, and will open the Industrial Exhibition of the Cutlers' Company on the 1st of July. During his stay in Sheffield the Prince will be the guest of the Duke of Norfolk.

Lord Lorne opened on Thursday afternoon the Summer Exhibition of the Yorkshire Fine Art and Industrial Institution, York, at which Princess Louise is an exhibitor. There was a distinguished company present, including the Lord Major and Lady Mayoress, Sir Frederick Milner, M.P., and the City Corporation. Subsequently Lord Lorne was entertained by the Mayor at luncheon in the Mansion-house, and he afterwards left by an afternoon train for London.

The Horse Show was opened at the Agricultural Hall on Saturday, when considerable progress was made with the judging and the award of prizes. The entries were numerous, and the show was a very good one. The hunter championship prize was won by Pioneer, an old grey, well known at these exhibitions, formerly in the possession of Mr. Ford, of Leamington, but now entered as the property of Major Thwaites. The attendance during the day was large. The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the show on Tuesday.

Sir John Bennett, at the meeting of the Court of Common Council on Thursday, called attention to the exclusion from the agenda of his notice to move a resolution respecting the death of Victor Hugo, whereupon the Lord Mayor stated that before exercising his privilege in this matter he had taken the opinion of the Committee of the whole Court, and had it been adverse to his view, although he felt strongly upon the question, the motion would have appeared on the paper in the usual course. Mr. Deputy Saunders and Mr. Garrett were re-elected as representatives of the Court at the Metropolitan Board of Works; and the Lord Mayor was nominated Governor of the Holloway Sanatorium.

The celebrated rocking-stone at Buckstone, in Monmouthshire, has been accidentally thrown down by six excursionists, members of a travelling variety company. While making the stone vibrate they used too much force, and the stone, after rocking twice, tilted over and fell from its position on the summit of the high hill into the wood below. The stone measured 56ft. round the top, and tapered down to about 3ft. at the base. Two men were on it as it was falling, but both escaped uninjured. The stone is now lying point upwards in the valley. It was Crown property, and was one of the chief attractions in the Wye Valley.

A marble statue of the late Charles Darwin was unveiled on Tuesday morning at the Natural History Museum in Cromwell-road, South Kensington, and was received in trust for the nation by the Prince of Wales, as representing the trustees of the British Museum. The statue, which is the work of Mr. Boehm, is placed on the landing of the principal staircase leading from the great hall to the Natural History Museum. A numerous and distinguished gathering witnessed the ceremony. Professor Huxley, as chairman of the Darwin Committee, having unveiled the statue and formally transferred it to the trustees of the British Museum, the Prince of Wales, in acknowledgment, said he considered it to be a high privilege to have been deputed by the unanimous wish of his colleagues to accept in their names the gift they had offered on behalf of the Committee of the Darwin memorial.

At least thirty persons who on Sunday bought and ate ice creams from an Italian stallkeeper in Lambeth-walk were afterwards attacked with symptoms of poisoning. On Monday afternoon Inspector Chamberlain informed the magistrate at the Lambeth Police-court that the vendor of the ice creams was detained at the Kennington-lane Police-station, but there was a difficulty in making any charge against him. Mr. Biron, having inquired into the facts, said he failed to see how the man could be charged at present. In the event of any fatal result a coroner's jury would have the matter placed before them. The ice-cream seller was shortly afterwards allowed to leave the police-station.

The following is a description of the wedding cake made to the order of Kentish ladies for her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice:—It represents three cakes, one above the other, and the plateau upon which it rests, and surrounding the lower cake, is a wreath of lilies, white, interspersed with ivy, emblematic of purity, sweetness, and friendship. Surrounding the lowest cake are large skeleton shields, bearing on enclosed shields the coat of arms of the Princess Beatrice and Prince Henry of Battenberg, interspersed with passion flowers. Surrounding the second cake are jessamine, and round the second and third cakes are passion flowers, ivy, and roses. On the top cake are cupids and a large vase containing an immense bouquet composed of a variety of emblematic flowers. The cake weighs about 4cwt., and the floral decorations are all modelled entirely of sugar. It will be placed on a massive gold stand, which is being specially made and designed for the occasion.

The case of "Adams *v.* Coleridge" was mentioned on Tuesday morning in the Court of Appeal, before the Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Lindley, when the Attorney-General stated the terms of the arrangement come to between Mr. Adams and the Hon. Bernard Coleridge, as well as that relating to the other action against Lord Coleridge. The action against Mr. Coleridge it had been agreed should be referred to a gentleman appointed by the parties to say what should be the amount of the compensation to be paid to Mr. Adams. Both actions would be stayed. Mr. Coleridge unreservedly withdrew all imputations on Mr. Adams, and this Mr. Adams frankly accepted. Lord Coleridge desired to state that he at no time intended to cast reflections on his daughter, who would be restored to the same pecuniary position as if these proceedings had never taken place, and Lord Coleridge had agreed to settle an income upon her of £600 a year.

The Right Rev. Monsignor Goddard, domestic Prelate of Pope Leo XIII., and priest-in-charge of St. Mary, Chislehurst, attained his silver jubilee as priest on Tuesday, and was presented with an illuminated address and a purse of money by his parishioners. Among the many felicitations which Monsignor Goddard received was a congratulatory letter from the Empress Eugénie.

The funeral of Sir Julius Benedict took place on Tuesday in Kensal-green Cemetery. There was a very large attendance, both at the house in Manchester-square, from which the procession started, and in the cemetery. The coffin bore the inscription, "Sir Julius Benedict, born November 27, 1804; died June 5, 1885."

The Bath and West of England Agricultural Show was opened on Monday in Preston Park, Brighton, when, although the morning was dull, the weather subsequently became warm and bright. There was a much larger number of entries than last year, and the stock exhibited possessed a very high average of merit. The principal streets of the town in honour of the event have been decorated.

The exploring party at the Margaret Pit, Durham, discovered early on Monday morning the last of the bodies of the twelve men who lost their lives by the disaster of Wednesday week. The remains of the shifter, Joseph Laidler, were found buried beneath some *débris* which had been washed down the workings by the water.

On Saturday the latest addition to the permanent public resorts of Londoners was formally opened, the ceremony being performed by the Lord Mayor, M.P., who, with Miss Fowler, was accompanied by the Sheriffs (Mr. Alderman Whitehead and Mr. G. Faudel Phillips), and certain officers of the corporation. Sir R. Carden, M.P., chairman of the Albert Palace Company, received the mayoral party and presented an address to the Lord Mayor, which stated that the Albert Palace had been established to provide rational amusement and recreation for the public, and that such an institution could not fail to prove a great boon to the densely-populated districts south of the Thames. The Lord Mayor said, in reply to the address that it afforded him the greatest possible pleasure to perform the ceremony of opening a building which he believed would add to the instruction, amusement, and happiness of the public. Amid loud cheers the Lord Mayor declared the Albert Palace open to the public. A Dedication Ode was then performed, this having been written expressly by Mr. W. A. Barrett, Mus. Bac. The music of the Ode, by A. J. Caldicott, introducing the chorale "Gotha," written by the Prince Consort, is exceedingly well written, and is of more value from an artistic point of view than might be expected in a work designed to a limited existence. The solos for soprano and baritone were effectively sung by Mdme. Valleria and Mr. H. E. Thorndike, and the composer received an ovation at the conclusion. The great organ, once the property of Mr. Holmes, of Primrose-hill, occupies the greater portion of the space of the orchestra, to the disadvantage of the arrangements of the space for the band. Several musical performances were given during the day. There were recitals upon the organ by Mr. J. M. Coward and Mr. A. J. Caldicott, the band of the Scots Guards played a selection of pieces on the orchestra in the nave, and a promenade concert was given in the evening, in which Miss Winthrop, Mr. Iver M'Kay, Mr. Herbert Thorndike, and Mr. Howard Reynolds were the soloists. The state of the weather did not admit of the full enjoyment of the beautiful grounds surrounding the palace, but these and the proximity of the people's park at Battersea make the situation of the building extremely pleasant, and as it can be easily and inexpensively reached there is every reason to believe that it will, as it deserves, become a most popular place of resort.

A meeting of Old Harrovians and Harrow Masters was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, for the purpose of taking the necessary steps to raise a fund to commemorate the Head Mastership of Dr. Butler at Harrow. There was a crowded attendance. Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., M.P., who took the chair, moved: "That a fund, to be called the Butler Fund, be established to commemorate in some permanent way at Harrow the eminent services of Dr. Butler to the School." Mr. H. R. T. Alexander seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried. On the motion of Mr. Nicholson, M.P., the following resolution was agreed to: "That the fund be devoted to the purchase of a portrait of Dr. Butler for presentation to his family; and, secondly, to the purchase or otherwise securing to the School of all or some portion of the football field, or, in the event of that proving to be impracticable, to some purpose at Harrow closely connected with the amusements of the School, to be hereafter decided on." Among the other speakers to the resolutions were Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P.; Hon. E. Stanhope, M.P.; Right Hon. A. J. Beresford Hope, M.P.; Messrs. A. G. Watson, C. Colbeck, E. C. Willoughby, W. E. H. Sotheby, W. B. Paton, S. W. Gore, and Cecil F. Holmes. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings, it being understood that a small executive committee would at once take up the matter. Subscriptions, which may be spread over three or five years, will be received by either of the hon. secretaries, Mr. A. Macnamara, 24, Clarges Street; Mr. G. W. Tallents, 62, Ennismore-gardens; or Mr. R. de Courtenay Welch, 57, Cambridge-street, W.; or by Messrs. Coutts, the bankers to the Fund.

Thirteen men employed in the operation of filling the coal bunkers of the *Inflexible*, now lying at Portsmouth, were on Monday morning injured, three of them seriously, by an explosion of coal-gas. There seems to have been a failure to afford the requisite ventilation, and the introduction of a light into one of the bunkers brought about the explosion. This occurrence will not delay the departure of the vessel.

Barbers in England formerly used the lancet as well as the razor in the discharge of their professional duties, and not only shaved, but also, when occasion required, bled their customers. It appears from a report on the medical and sanitary administration of the Government of Egypt, by Surgeon-Major Green, just published, that barbers in that country act not only as surgeons but also as doctors. The Egyptian people, it is stated, are dependent in sickness on the village barber and his wife, both equally ignorant, or rather both possessing that little amount of knowledge which is a dangerous thing. Barbers exist in every village, being nominated by the chief doctor of the district. They receive no training or instruction whatever, but are nevertheless looked upon as forming part of the sanitary corps. The barber is charged with the supervision of surface cleanliness, and is empowered (in theory) to order the inhabitants to sweep and water their streets. He is obliged to give such surgical aid as he possesses to all wounded people, and to those stung by scorpions and other venomous animals; and also on his own account practises as a physician. Medicines as a rule he does not dispense; but he is a great believer in charms and also in the efficacy of anointing with oil. In this respect the views of the Egyptian barber are in accordance with those of the British hairdresser.

In view of the fact that a very large proportion of the fires which occur annually in London are caused by the overturning or explosion of one kind or another of the mineral oil lamps in general use, it is exceedingly gratifying to learn that at last a lamp has been invented which renders the use of any kind of mineral oil for illuminating purposes perfectly safe and satisfactory. The invention to which we refer is that of Defries' Safety Lamp (Sepulchre's Pacent), which, embodying as it does all the features which scientific inquiry have proved to be necessary for the perfectly safe use of mineral oils, while it overcomes all the usual objections to petroleum burning, is certainly the greatest step in advance made for many years. The lamp having been submitted to Mr. Boverton Redwood, F.C.S., F.I.C., for thorough examination, that gentleman, than whom there could not be found a higher authority on the subject, says: "The construction of this lamp is such that neither ignition of the vapour nor outflow of the oil in the event of the lamp being overturned can occur. Moreover, the oil reservoir being of metal is not liable to fracture. It therefore follows that the risks attaching to the employment of mineral oils as illuminating agents in lamps of the ordinary description are non-existent in the use of the Defries' Safety Lamp." Mr. Redwood subjected the lamp to a series of photometric tests, and obtained the most satisfactory results. Concluding his report, he says: "It will be noted that the Defries' Safety Lamp is of very considerable light-giving power for its size, and that the consumption of oil, in relation to the light afforded, is small. The light emitted is remarkably white, the flame is perfectly steady, and the combustion is effected without the production of the slightest odour or smoke." The construction of the lamp is exceedingly simple, it cannot by any possibility explode, and when upset is immediately automatically extinguished, so that all the risks which usually attend the use of oil lamps are got rid of. In view of the above facts, it may confidently be anticipated that Defries' Safety Lamp will be appreciated by all who desire the safest, cheapest, and most brilliant form of lighting obtainable.

In connection with the monthly *conversazione* of the London Literary and Artistic Society, a grand instrumental and vocal concert was given at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, on Tuesday, under the direction of Ernest Bernard, Esq.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending June 6 was—medical 709, surgical 356; total 1,063, of which 457 were new cases.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d

BIRTHS.

June 3, at Franklyn Villa, Enfield Lock, the wife of the Rev. CHARLES HERBERT ROBERTS, M.A., Chaplain Royal Small Arms Factory, of a daughter.

June 6, the Countess of BELMORE, prematurely of a daughter.

June 6, at Dulbury Rectory, Derby, the wife of the Rev. J. STAPLETON COTTON, of a son.

June 7, at Bellagio, Italy, the wife of the Rev. JOHN E. EDDIS, of a son.

June 7, at the South-Eastern College, Ramsgate, the wife of the Rev. E. C. D'AUQUIER, M.A., of a daughter.

June 8, at 4, Montagu-square, W., the wife of the Rev. W. H. ARKWRIGHT, of a daughter.

June 8, at Etwall Vicarage, the wife of the Rev. EDWARD ALDER, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

June 2, at St. George's, Hanover-square, CHARLES CARMICHAEL, only son of Sir JAMES LACAITA, K.C.M.G., to MARY ANNABEL, daughter of Sir FRANCIS HASTINGS DOYLE, Bart.

June 2, at the Church of St. Pierre, Besançon, France, Vicomte OLIVIER DU PONTARVICE DE HEUSSEY, youngest son of the late Comte du Pontarvice de Heussey, and grandson of the late General Romer, Royal Artillery, to MARIE SOPHIE CHARLOTTE D'OLLONE, only surviving daughter of the Comte and Comtesse d'Ollone, of the Château of St. Dié, Vosges, France.

June 4, at East Blatchington, Sussex, the Rev. KYNASTON WEDGE SUMMERFIELD, Curate of Fleet, Hants, younger son of R. Summerfield, Esq., of Acton, Middlesex, to MARION SOPHIA ELIZABETH, second daughter of the late GRANADO CHESTER, H.E.I.C.S.

June 6, at St. Mary Magdalene's, Paddington, the Rev. W. H. BLEADEN, Incumbent of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Aberdeen, to EDITH EMMA, youngest daughter of the late Rev. WILLIAM BEAL, some time Vicar of Brooke, Norfolk.

June 6, at the parish church, Corby, Lincolnshire, MAUD EMILY BEATRICE, youngest daughter of the Rev. CHARLES FAREBROTHER, B.C.L., Rector of Irnham-cum-Corby, to HARCOURT COATES, Esq., M.D., Salisbury, Wilts.

June 9, at St. Philip and St. James' Church, Oxford, Rev. CHARLES HENRY LACON, Vicar of Wangford-c.-Henham and Reydon, Suffolk, to NORA, youngest daughter of the late CHARLES HUGH LUSHINGTON, Esq., of Rodmersham, Kent.

June 9, at St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, the Rev. CLEMENT LUCAS, Vicar of Leigh, Reigate, to BARBARA, eldest daughter of the late RICHARD WESTMACOTT, Esq., R.A., F.R.S., of 1, Kensington-gate.

June 9, at St. Matthias', Earl's-court, S.W., CHARLES EDWARD WALKER, M.B., M.R.C.S., of Hurworth-on-Tees, Darlington, second son of W. H. Walker, M.D., Aldbro', Darlington, to ANNETTE CURTIS, youngest daughter of the late Rev. J. W. LESTER, D.D., Vicar of Norwood, Surrey.

DEATHS.

June 2, at Roval, General Baron CARL VON MAYDELL, in his 69th year.

June 4, at Folkestone, of inflammation of the brain, after three days' illness, HAROLD SPENCER THEODORE CARR, aged five years, the fondly-loved and only child of George Shoobridge Carr, M.A., and Fanny Anne Carr, of 3, Endsleigh-gardens, London, N.W.

June 4, at New Hampton, aged 88, MARIANNE WOLF, widow of Sir RICHARD DRAKEFORD HENEGAN, K.C.H.

June 5, at 137, Warrender-park-road, Edinburgh, ELEANOR HARRIETT, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel LONGDEN, aged 42.

June 5, at 47, Well-street, Hackney, MARY, the dearly-beloved wife of the Rev. EVAN JONES, Vicar of the Metropolitan Welch Church.

June 6, at Gloucester House, Southampton, FRANCES MARGARETTA AUSTEN, younger daughter of the late Rev. William Austen, Rector of Horstead-Keynes, Sussex.

June 8, suddenly, while on a visit to her sister, at 42, Broadesbury-villas, Kilburn, N.W., JULIA, widow of JOSEPH NIGHTINGALE, late of the War Office, and of 9, St James's-terrace, Paddington, W.

June 8, at Leamington, LOUISA FURNEAUX, widow of the Rev. William Duckworth Furneaux, Rector of Berkley, Somerset, aged 63.

LATEST NEWS.

SIMLA, June 12.

It is understood that Lord Dufferin's position as Viceroy of India will not be affected by a change of Ministry in England.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 12.

A law is officially promulgated to-day increasing the Frontier Guard by 64 officers, 5,782 non-commissioned officers and men, and 244 horses.

ROME, June 12.

The Pope yesterday sanctioned the decisions arrived at by the Irish Bishops during their recent meetings at the Propaganda. His Holiness also approved the programme for the meeting which the Irish prelates will shortly hold in Dublin. This programme concords entirely with the resolutions adopted at the Propaganda.

PARIS, June 12.

The French Embassy recently sent to Morocco will soon arrive in Paris, and bring with them presents for M. Grévy. There is no doubt that the labours of the French representative to secure paramount influence in Morocco have met with considerable success, and will attain their object unless other interests, which are threatened, should be actively protected.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

The House of Lords met at a quarter-past four o'clock. Lord GRANVILLE said: I have the statement to make to your Lordships of what has occurred since I last had the honour of addressing you. I have now to inform your Lordships that Mr. Gladstone tendered his resignation and that of his colleagues to Her Majesty, and that Her Majesty has been pleased to accept the resignation, and to send for Lord Salisbury, who is now at this moment at Balmoral. Under these circumstances we shall not proceed with any of the ordinary business with the exception of the Redistribution Bill, and my noble friend the Secretary of State for India will state to your Lordships the course which he has arranged with the noble Lord opposite to take.

Lord KIMBERLEY said that in asking their Lordships to consider the report on the amendments to the Redistribution Bill, he had the full concurrence of the Marquis of Salisbury. He had introduced a new clause providing that the elections should take place after November 1, instead of dealing with the matter in a separate Bill.

Lord CRANBROOK stated that on behalf of Lord Salisbury he agreed to that course.

After some discussion the Bill, with the rest of the amendments, was agreed to, and, the Standing Orders being dispensed with, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at five o'clock.

In the House of Commons, Mr. GLADSTONE, who came to the table amidst loud cheers and counter-cheers, said: Sir, I rise, as the House will anticipate, for the purpose in the first instance of communicating what has taken place since Tuesday last when I apprised the House that the Cabinet had submitted a humble communication to Her Majesty. The nature of that communication, although it could not be expressly stated, was perfectly understood to be the resignation of the offices which are held by the favour of the Crown. That communication was made on the 9th, and reached Balmoral in the regular course in the afternoon of the 10th. Her Majesty acknowledged it by telegram upon the 10th, and Her Majesty's gracious reply was made upon the 11th, accepting the resignation of the Cabinet, and announcing at the same time to me that she had summoned Lord Salisbury to Balmoral. In that communication to Her Majesty upon the 9th, I stated on the part of the Cabinet that their resignation grew out of the vote given by the House on Monday night, and that it sprang from that source, and was founded upon that reason alone. Sir, of Lord Salisbury's movements I have no direct information, but I believe I am correct in saying that he left London last night for the purpose of obeying the commands of Her Majesty; and, if so, in the regular course, at the moment at which I am speaking Lord Salisbury ought to be at Balmoral and in communication with Her Majesty. Under these circumstances, and in the absence of the noble Marquis, it being impossible to have had any communication from him, the House will feel that the general arguments which induced the House on Tuesday to refrain from entering upon public business are still in full force. If that view is taken, it will not be necessary for me to make a motion on the subject, because the motion I should make, if any such steps were necessary, would be that the House should at its rising adjourn to Monday, and that I believe is what would take place in the regular course without any motion at all. In doing so I have still to make a deviation in a particular case from the general rules to which I have referred, and to submit to the House some considerations relating to a particular subject which was named on Tuesday last. As the question has not unnaturally arisen, considering the very peculiar circumstances of the case, whether it might not be expedient for the public interest and convenience that the House, even in the present state of things, without having what in the full sense of the term can be called a responsible Government, should proceed to deal with any amendments which the House of Lords may have made in the Bill for the Redistribution of Seats, presuming that those amendments may now be said, as I believe is probable, to be on the point of being settled in the House of Lords, and may be likely to reach this House in so short a time as half an hour—upon this subject I venture to make a recommendation with very great deference to the House, conditional upon several circumstances, and grounded upon reasons that may be stated in the shortest way. I make it with the full and cordial assent of the gentlemen who sit opposite, and who are responsible for the affairs of what I may call the principal Opposition in this House, and I may venture to assume on the part of another important though not numerically so strong a portion of the Opposition; and there is probably a desire in that portion of the House likewise that the subject of the Redistribution of Seats should be settled, and I assume that such is the case, and, unless it were, I would not persevere in the suggestion which I am about to make. But it is founded upon considerations of importance. In the first place, I believe I am correct in saying that no differences of principle relating to the substance of the Bill can possibly arise. The ship, whose voyage we have watched with great anxiety, is virtually in port. (Hear, hear.) There was a compact with regard to it between the late Government and the Opposition, and all are anxious to have the entire question settled at once, and placed beyond the reach of any adverse contingency, so that the new franchise may come into operation in connection with the new redistribution of seats. Well, that compact is all but fulfilled. The Bill has virtually passed through both Houses, and it would be great gratification to me and my colleagues in office if we could look upon the transaction as one signed, sealed, and delivered, with regard to which nothing remained in the future, and all was in the past. Another matter is that, already, owing to the necessities of the case, the time has run so short that it would impose considerable difficulties on the loyal officers throughout the country charged with the important duty of registration to discharge that duty in a satisfactory manner, and every day's —I do not exaggerate when I say every day's—delay is of great importance to those officers, and a serious loss to the public. Putting these considerations together) if I feel that there is a general desire on the part of the House with whom we formerly communicated on the Redistribution of Seats Bill that this should be dealt with at once, notwithstanding the tendency of the regular Government, I shall ask that this course be taken—that this House shall wait until the Lords' amendments be settled, so that this House may consider them.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE, rising amidst Opposition cheers, suggested that it would be better to have their Lordships' amendments printed before they were considered by this House.

Mr. GLADSTONE at once acceded to this, and, the Lords' amendments having been brought down, they were ordered to be printed and to be considered on Monday.

The House adjourned at seventeen minutes past five o'clock.

Lord Salisbury, having been sent for by the Queen, left town for Balmoral on Thursday night by the Scotch mail. His Lordship arrived at the Waverly Station, Edinburgh, at 6.20 yesterday morning, and, after a stoppage of twenty minutes, the train proceeded to the north. His Lordship was recognised by those about the station, but there was no demonstration. The Marquis of Salisbury arrived at Perth Station at 9.55. The journey was resumed by the 11.35 Caledonian train to Aberdeen. Both on the arrival and departure of the noble Marquis a large number of people assembled and heartily cheered. His Lordship arrived at Aberdeen at 2.15. A great crowd waited at the station. Loud cheers were raised the moment the noble Marquis was recognised, and he bowed an acknowledgment. Lord Salisbury resumed his journey at three o'clock, and arrived at Balmoral at five o'clock, when he had an immediate audience of Her Majesty.

Arrangements have been completed for the departure of the Queen from Balmoral on Tuesday. Her Majesty will travel by the usual route, arriving at Windsor on Wednesday morning.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between the Hon. Arthur Lawley, 10th Royal Hussars, and Miss Cunard, third sister of Sir Bache Cunard, Bart.

Also between Mr. Nicolas Charlton, of Chilwell Hall, Nottingham, and Hon. Helen Scarlett, second daughter of Lord Abinger.

Also between Mr. Fitzherbert-Brockholes, of Claughton-on-Brock, Lancashire, and Miss Blanche Clifford, second daughter of the late Major-General the Hon. Sir Henry Clifford, V.C., C.B., K.C.M.G.

Also between Mr. August Byron, only son of the Hon. and Rev. Augustus Byron, of Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire, and Miss Constance Clough Taylor, youngest daughter of Mr. Edward Clough Taylor, of Firby, Kirkham Abbey, Yorkshire.

Also between Mr. Francis Abel Smith, only son of Mr. Henry Abel Smith, of Wilford, Notts, and Miss Madeline St. Maur Seymour, daughter of the Rev. Henry Seymour, rector of Holme Pierrepont, Notts.

Their Royal Highnesses Princess Christian and Princess Louise and a numerous and distinguished congregation met at St. Mark's Church, North Audley-street, on Thursday afternoon, on the occasion of the marriage of Captain Josceline FitzRoy Bagot (Grenadier Guards), of Levens Hall, Westmoreland, eldest son of Colonel Charles Bagot, with Theodosia, third daughter of Sir John Leslie, Bart., of Glaslough, county Monaghan, and Lady Leslie. Those invited to the wedding began to assemble at half-past one o'clock, the ceremony being appointed for two punctually. Among the relatives and friends of both families present were Louisa Marchioness of Waterford, the Earl of Arran and Ladies Gore, the Countess of Airlie, Viscountess Clifden and Colonel Stirling, Viscount Galway, Lady Constance Stanley, Lady Maria Ponsonby, Hon. Colonel Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. George Cavendish Bentinck, &c. The bridegroom was attended by the Hon. the Master of Colville, a brother officer, as best man; and the bridesmaids were Miss Olive Leslie (sister of the bride), Lady Susan Beresford (daughter of the Marquis of Waterford), Miss Mary C. Bentinck (daughter of Mr. George Cavendish Bentinck), and Miss Evelyn Stirling (daughter of Viscountess Clifden), all cousins of the bride, Lady Mary Percy (daughter of Earl and Countess Percy and cousin of the bridegroom), and Miss Violet Mills, daughter of Sir Charles Mills. The bride arrived punctually at two o'clock, accompanied by her parents, and was met at the church door by the clergy and choir. The bride was simply dressed in fine white Indian muslin, over rich soft white satin, the bodice being gathered, and finished at the back with a long satin sash; a spray of real orange flowers was fastened on her bodice, and she wore a long tulle veil reaching to the ground, but no ornaments. Her bouquet was of white roses and orange blossoms. The bridesmaids, all children, wore frocks of white cambric over pink, trimmed with Valenciennes lace; pale pink surah sashes, white muslin cottage hats trimmed with doves' wings, bronze shoes and stockings, and white mittens. Each wore a bracelet with turquoise and pearl heart centre, the bridegroom's gift, and carried a long branch of white lilies tied with white satin ribbons. Princess Christian wore a fawn-coloured dress, trimmed with ruby velvet, and bonnet to harmonise; Princess Louise was in a soft cream-coloured costume, with cream bonnet; Lady Leslie, the bride's mother, wore white crêpe de Chine, trimmed with black velvet and lace, and straw bonnet trimmed with roses, and carried a bouquet of pink roses; Countess Percy wore brown broché silk, with brown bonnet and feathers to match; Viscountess Galway, cream broché satin petticoat, with over-dress of cream canvas, slightly trimmed with ruby velvet; Viscountess Hood, fiselle-coloured material and silk, with bonnet to match; Hon. Mabel Hood white, with yellow ribbons; Lady Griselda Ogilvy, white cambric with pink silk sash, and pink and white bonnet. The Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe performed the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Ernald Lane, rector of Leigh, Stoke-on-Trent, and by the Rev. H. Ayre, vicar of St. Mark's, Sir John Leslie giving his daughter away. As the wedding party left the church favours of real flowers were distributed. Owing to a recent bereavement in Captain Bagot's family there was no reception afterwards, but a few relatives and intimate friends assembled at Sir John and Lady Leslie's residence in Stratford-place to bid adieu to the newly-married couple, who started about four o'clock for Levens Hall, Captain Bagot's place in Westmoreland. The bride's travelling dress was of sprigged white and blue muslin, trimmed with Valenciennes lace, with which she wore a white straw sailor hat, trimmed with dove's wings. Among the numerous presents received by the bride were, from Princess Christian, a silver heart-shaped box, and Princess Louise, a diamond horse-shoe bracelet.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor and Princess Louise, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, and the Princess Mary Adelaide (Duchess), the Duke of Teck, and Princess Victoria Mary, honoured the Duchess of Leeds by their company at a ball at the family mansion in Grosvenor-crescent on Wednesday night. The Prince and Princess of Wales, with Prince Albert Victor and Princess Louise, and attended by Lady Suffield and Colonel Clarke, arrived shortly before twelve o'clock, and were met on entering the hall by the Duke and Duchess of Leeds and Lady H. Godolphin Osborne, the Duchess and her daughter presenting the Royal Princesses each with a bouquet of exotics. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh had previously arrived, with Lady Emma Osborne in attendance; and the Duke and Duchess of Teck and Princess Victoria were the last of the illustrious guests to arrive. Some more than usually handsome dresses were worn. The Princess of Wales wore a bodice and drapery of pale blue and silver brocade, over a blue tulle skirt, caught up with crimson flowers, ornaments diamonds; and the Princess Louise was in white tulle, caught here and there with clusters of white flowers, and wore pearl ornaments. The Duchess of Edinburgh looked well in pale green brocaded satin, with a train of dark green velvet, pink flowers in her hair, and diamond and pearl ornaments. The hostess presented her Royal Highness with a bouquet of the loveliest pale mauve flowers. The Duchess of Teck's dress was a combination of pale flowered satin, dark blue silk, and white lace; and Princess Victoria wore cream tulle. The hostess wore brown velvet and broché silk of a lighter shade, trimmed with white lace and ornaments of diamonds; and Lady Harriet Godolphin Osborne's white tulle dress was very prettily trimmed with white ostrich feathers, and in her hair were a cluster of lilies of the valley and a white feather. Mdme. Waddington's was a beautiful dress of a new and lovely shade of pink, the train being of velvet and the petticoat of satin festooned with lace flounces; the Duchess of Sutherland wore cream brocade and lace, with diamond ornaments; and Lady Alexandra Leveson Gower, white, with garnitures of white flowers; the Duchess of Manchester, cream satin, the front draped with lace insertion and stripes of gold, ornaments pearls and diamonds.

Countess Granville (after Earl Granville's full-dress banquet on Saturday in celebration of the Queen's birthday) held a brilliant reception at the Foreign Office on Saturday last. T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor, Prince George, and Princess Louise of Wales, and attended by Lady Suffield, Lord Colville, and Colonel Stanley Clarke, honoured the Countess by their presence. T.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Cambridge were also present. The Princess of Wales looked remarkably well in a train of brown and yellow brocaded velvet, the yellow satin petticoat being draped with cream Spanish lace, ornaments diamonds. Her daughter, the Princess Louise, wore white tulle trimmed with white flowers. Countess Granville wore rich ivory broché, trimmed with handsome pearl passementerie; ivory-white feather and diamond tiara in the hair; diamond star, and diamond necklace and cross, and carried a bouquet of Maréchal Niel roses. Lady Victoria Leveson Gower's dress was of white gaze de Chambery, trimmed with white satin and pearls, and wore a white aigrette in her hair, a pearl necklace, and had a bouquet of monthly roses. Princess Nares was in black and gold brocade, and wore beautiful diamonds; the Duchess of Buckingham wore lemon-coloured satin, trimmed with lace; the Duchess of Bedford was in black, with diamond tiara and other ornaments; the Duchess of Manchester and Lady Alice Montagu were in white; the Duchess of Westminster wore black silk, with white feathers in the hair, and diamond ornaments; and her sister, the Countess of Leicester, wore black frisé velvet; the Duchess of Leeds, pale green satin; and Lady Harriet Godolphin Osborne, white; the Countess of Seafield wore a train of ruby velvet, the other portion of her dress being of white satin and lace, and her diamonds were splendid; the Countess of Romney was in pink tulle, intermixed with beautiful embroidered satin, and wore magnificent diamonds; the Countess of Clanwilliam, black satin and diamonds; Countess Marie Munster wore cream surah and ruby velvet.

The *Daily News* says that packing has already commenced in Downing-street. Mr. Gladstone has no other town house, and it is not his intention to take one for what remains of the Session.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

A Prize of One Guinea is given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on June 6, 13, 20, and 27.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competitions so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the ACROSTIC EDITOR of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 5.

(THIRD MONTH, TENTH YEAR.)

1. E ni D
2. P ros E
3. S pense R
4. O r B
5. M a Y

Light 2.—Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*.

Solutions have been received from M.A.E.B., Asphodel, Roslyn, Kildale, Whaup, Hampton Courtier, Conjecture, Noryb, Two Countesses, Pegasus, Godiva, Kiku, S.O.F., Quandary, Waddles, Sociable, Sleepy, Pansy, Senga, Paddy, Iris, L.E.L., Hadji, The Owl, G.C.H., Zulus, Emmi, Katydid, Etak, Culverin, Zyx, Spero, Bios, Viz, Mac, O.R., Cymro, Ketha, Land o' Nod, and Noremac.

MARCH TIES.—Beam, Persevere, and Todcat have all correctly solved the above Acrostic, and remain competing.

After careful consideration, the Acrostic Editor is unable to accept either Opal or Oriental as an alternative to Occidental for Light 2 of Acrostic No. 3.

MONTHLY LIST FOR MAY.

1. Viz, Vertumnus, Conjector, Cave Lupum, Emmi, Thal, Edith S., and Bertha.
2. Peewit, Evelina, Cymro, Zulus, South Western, The Owl, Pansy, Chelmsford, and Noryb.
3. Asphodel, O.R., Senga, Sleepy, Sociable, Noremac, G.C.H., Whaup, Kildale, Spero, Pen, and Asphodel.
4. Hadji, Two Countesses, Conjecture, Kiku, S.O.F., Culverin, Roslyn, M.A.E.B., L.E.L., Quandary, Iris, Hampton Courtier, Etak, Paddy, Bios, Zyx, Katydid, and Godiva.
5. Ketha, Land o' Nod, Mac, Pegasus, and Waddles.

Thus Ketha, Land o' Nod, Mac, Pegasus, and Waddles have tied for the May Prize, and remain competing.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 2.

(FOURTH MONTH, TENTH YEAR.)

PROEM.

No jewelled sword! For him the greater glory,
A place of honour in our island-story.

1.

It grows apace. But 'twill not be ill
If your pet thereof should take its fill.

2.

If its acquaintance you care to make,
A cab to the Zoological Gardens take.

3.

When your relations you wish to aid,
'Tis hard that this to your charge is laid.

4.

Roulette no longer holds its olden sway;
You drink the waters, but you may not play.
You still may hazard chances with your health,
But may not risk misfortune with your wealth.

5.

Not long since the soldier bore this to the fight,
And now it is useless and obsolete quite.

6.

She arose from the foam of the sea to rule,
With an equal sway philosopher and fool.

7.

The Eastern land where under sunny skies
Towering aloft the world-famed cedars rise.

On the report stage of the Redistribution Bill in the House of Lords, Lord Kimberley moved additional clauses, with a view of accelerating the work of registration of voters during the coming autumn in order that the general election may be taken under the new franchise at any time after the 7th of November. The first of the additional clauses gives power to any judge of the High Court, after September 5, to appoint additional revising barristers in any case where lists of voters cannot, by reason of insufficient number of barristers, be revised within the period fixed by this Act. It is provided, respecting registration in England, that the lists shall be revised between the 8th of September and the 8th of October, and as soon as possible after the first-mentioned date, and the 8th of September shall be substituted for the 15th of September in the Acts relating to registration. The revised list shall be delivered to the returning officer on or before the 7th of November, and shall be the register at any Parliamentary election which takes place after that day, or if the present Parliament is not then dissolved, then after the date of such dissolution, and before the 1st of January, 1887. The new register in Ireland will come into force on the same date as in England, but in Scotland the date fixed is November 1.

A fire of an alarming character, which at one time threatened the destruction of the International Inventions Exhibition, and which has resulted in the burning out of the entrance hall and one wing of the Indian Museum, broke out yesterday morning. By two o'clock the fire had been successfully got under. A portion of the entrance hall of the Exhibition was roped off for the convenience of the firemen, and the public were admitted between three and four o'clock. The total loss is comparatively small, as all the most valuable articles were removed from the Indian Museum upon the first outbreak. What loss there is will fall upon the Northern Insurance Company. Through the afternoon the visitors have been very numerous, but there is very little for anyone to see of the damage, as the fire was confined within such small limits. Nothing is yet known for certain as to the origin of the fire, but it is believed to have commenced through the flue from Spiers and Pond's kitchen chimney igniting the roof of the Museum.

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